Agenda Item No: 5

Meeting of:	**Place Scrutiny Committee**
Date of Meeting:	**Tuesday, 22 September 2026**
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Item which the Chair has decided is urgent (Part I)	Not applicable
Urgent Decision Procedure Used (15.14 of the Constitution) (If yes, why)	Not applicable
Item Type	Part I
Report Title:	Update Report: Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032)
Portfolio Holder:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services
Strategic Leadership Team:	Director of Environment and Housing
Lead Officer:	Head of Neighbourhood Services

1.0 What is this report about?

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made in delivering the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032). It also identifies the actions required to ensure the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations, recycling targets and wider environmental objectives.

1.2 It also incorporates proposed key mitigating actions and provides an update on recycling and waste service performance together with progress on strategic projects and initiatives designed to improve operational efficiency, service resilience and performance.

1.3 The report also provides an update on emerging legislative and policy developments, including the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Digital Waste Tracking, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), future recycling targets and the proposed inclusion of Energy from Waste facilities within the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), all of which are expected to influence future service delivery and recycling performance.

1.4 In addition, the report highlights a number of future opportunities for additional services and facilities as well as highlighting risks and budgetary challenges facing the service and

outlines factors that are likely to affect future performance, operational delivery and financial sustainability.

1.5 The report also seeks committee consideration and subsequent Cabinet approval to progress the development and construction of the proposed Fleet Parking Facility at Atlantic Trading Estate, subject to the receipt of Planning consent. The development forms a key component of the Council's long-term waste management infrastructure programme and is expected to deliver operational efficiencies, financial savings and carbon reduction benefits whilst improving the resilience and sustainability of the frontline service.

1.6 The report will be considered at the Place Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 22nd September and will be referred to Cabinet, with any relevant recommendations, for its meeting on Thursday 24th September.

2.0 What are the Recommendations?

	Recommendations – What and How?	**Reason for Recommendation – Why?**
2.1	That Committee notes the progress made in delivering the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032), including service performance, legislative developments and strategic infrastructure projects detailed within this report.	To update Committee on the progress made since approval of the Strategy and the challenges and opportunities facing the service.
2.2	That Committee considers and endorses the updated Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) Action Plan attached at Appendix A.	To ensure the Strategy continues to reflect progress made to date, emerging legislative requirements, changing priorities and future service developments. To seek the views and any recommendations from the Committee.
2.3	That Committee refers the report to Cabinet for their consideration, including recommendations 2.4 – 2.8 (below), and that Cabinet notes the progress made in delivering the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032), including service performance, legislative developments and strategic infrastructure projects detailed within this report.	To update Cabinet on the progress made since approval of the Strategy and the challenges and opportunities facing the service. To consider and approve the report as well as recommendations 2.4 – 2.8 (below).
2.4	That Cabinet considers and approves the updated Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) Action Plan attached at Appendix A.	To ensure the Strategy continues to reflect progress made to date, emerging legislative requirements, changing priorities and future service developments.
2.5	That Cabinet approves a full rollout of a kerbside textile recycling collection service on a permanent basis across the Vale.	To increase recycling performance, reduce residual waste and support the Council's

	Recommendations – What and How?	Reason for Recommendation – Why?
		environmental and decarbonisation objectives.
2.6	That Cabinet considers and approves the introduction of a weekly Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service on a trial basis across Barry and receives a further report on the outcome of the trial before the end of the financial year.	To assess the operational and environmental benefits of diverting absorbent hygiene products from the residual waste stream before considering any wider rollout.
2.7	That Cabinet approves an increase of up to £80,000 of the existing Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract cost for the 2026/27 extension period to reflect increased market costs associated with wood recycling and the operational implications arising from the introduction of the garden waste subscription service.	To ensure continuity of management of the HWRC service whilst the Council completes its review of future service delivery arrangements.
2.8	That Cabinet considers the construction of the proposed fleet parking facility at Atlantic Trading Estate and authorises the works to commence for phase one of the scheme subject to the receipt of the necessary planning permissions, statutory approvals and funding arrangements.	To enable the Council to progress the delivery of the fleet parking facility in the most cost-effective and efficient manner, improving operational resilience, reducing vehicle movements and carbon emissions, and supporting the long-term infrastructure requirements of the Recycling and Waste Management Service.

3.0 What is the background to this report?

3.1 Cabinet on 19 February 2018 (minute no. C235 refers) considered the outcome of the work undertaken by Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) who independently carried out the various assessments.

3.2 Cabinet on 2 July 2018 (minute no. C356 refers) approved the full implementation of the `collections blueprint` namely a source separated recycling collection service as the future Strategy for the collection of recyclables. Such a service is most likely to achieve Statutory Recycling Targets (SRT's) and be the most sustainable, with the lowest carbon impact.

3.3 Council on 5 July 2021 (minute no. C296 refers) approved the Council's Project Zero Challenge Plan. The Plan sets out the response to the declaration of a climate emergency made by Council in 2019 and details the challenges and steps the organisation will take to become net zero by 2030.

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf

3.4 Within the Project Zero Challenge Plan there is a specific challenge to “Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling”. The adoption of a Waste Strategy is a key step for the Council in meeting this challenge.

3.5 Cabinet on 28th March 2022 (Minute no C894 refers) agreed the draft Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) in principle, subject to the outcome of the public consultation undertaken late summer.

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-03-28/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Business-Plan.pdf

3.6 Cabinet on 19 January 2023 (Minute no C197 refers) agreed the introduction of a subscription service for green waste and 3-weekly collections for black bag waste from July 2023.

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Service-Changes.pdf

3.7 Cabinet on 19 January 2023 (Minute no C198 refers) approved the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032)

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2023/23-01-19/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Strategy.pdf

3.8 Cabinet on 18 January 2024 (Minute no. C209 refers) approved the green waste subscription services charges for 2024/25 and noted the report on the performance of service changes introduced, July 2023.

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2024/24-01-18/Recycling-and-Waste-Management-Report.pdf

3.9 The Environment and Regeneration Committee on 20 February 2024 (Minute no. 823 refers), noted the green waste subscription services charges for 2024/25 and the report on the performance of service changes introduced, July 2023.

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3.10 The comprehensive background to the service changes implemented since 2018 is contained within the previous Cabinet reports referenced above and provides a historical record of the Council's transition towards the Welsh Government Collections Blueprint and the delivery of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032).

3.11 This report provides an update on progress made since the Strategy was approved, seeks authority to progress the next phase of service improvements and strategic infrastructure projects, and outlines the legislative and policy developments that are likely to affect future service performance.

3.12 The report also identifies the actions necessary to mitigate future risks and ensure the Council remains well positioned to meet its statutory recycling targets, environmental ambitions and Project Zero commitments.

4.0 What issues are there to be considered?

Strategy Update

4.1 Since Cabinet approved the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) in January 2023, the Council has successfully delivered a significant number of the actions identified within the Strategy. The transition to the Welsh Government (WG) Collections Blueprint has been completed across the Vale and the service continues to maintain recycling performance amongst the highest in Wales. The Council has also continued to meet its statutory recycling targets whilst improving the efficiency and resilience of frontline services.

4.2 The Council has also delivered a number of significant infrastructure and service improvements. The Resource Recovery Facility and Reuse Shop at Atlantic Trading Estate are now fully operational and continue to support the Council's recycling and waste management ambitions. Kerbside collections of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and batteries have been introduced, and the Council became the first authority in Wales to introduce a Vale-wide kerbside collection service for soft plastics on a permanent basis, ahead of anticipated Welsh Government requirements.

4.3 One of the most significant service changes delivered through the Strategy was the introduction of 3-weekly residual waste collections in July 2023. The change has contributed to a reduction in black bag waste, increased participation in recycling services and supported the Council's wider ambitions to reduce waste and carbon emissions. Food waste collections have also continued to increase year on year, demonstrating the positive engagement of residents with the recycling services available to them.

4.4 Another major achievement has been the successful introduction of the garden waste subscription service. Since its introduction, the service has continued to grow and has exceeded original expectations. As of August 2026, the Council has 14,009 subscribers generating an annual income of £598,719. The service has enabled the Council to continue providing a valued discretionary service whilst generating additional income to support frontline recycling and waste management services during a period of increasing financial pressure.

4.5 The action plan that is attached to the Strategy has been reviewed and updated and a number of actions contained within the original Strategy have now been completed, whilst others have been amended to reflect changing priorities, legislative developments and operational requirements. Where ambitious target dates have been revised, these have been highlighted in yellow in the Action Plan for ease of reference and to provide transparency on progress made against the original programme.

4.6 In addition to the existing Strategy and associated Action Plan, WG have now revised, updated and published their new Collections Blueprint (2025) document attached at Appendix B, with greater emphasis on supporting the transition towards a circular economy, with increased focus on waste prevention, reuse and repair alongside traditional recycling activities.

4.7 Whilst the Council has made significant progress in delivering the WG's preferred collection methodology and continues to achieve some of the highest recycling rates in Wales, future

service development will increasingly consider opportunities to reduce waste at source, support reuse initiatives and promote repair activities across the Vale.

4.8 This may include working with third-sector organisations, community groups and local businesses to encourage reuse and repair opportunities, expanding existing reuse arrangements at Council facilities and promoting initiatives that help residents extend the life of products and materials before they enter the waste stream.

4.9 The new Collections Blueprint also reinforces the importance of ensuring recycling and waste services are inclusive, equitable and accessible to all residents. The Council will continue to review service provision and future developments to ensure that appropriate support is available for households with additional needs, including assisted collections and additional waste capacity where justified.

4.10 Consideration will also be given to improving accessibility of information, expanding engagement with diverse communities and ensuring future service developments support the needs of all residents. WG highlights the importance of dedicated support for households generating absorbent hygiene products and encourages the promotion of reusable alternatives, such as reusable nappy schemes, alongside collection services. The Council will therefore continue to explore opportunities to support waste prevention initiatives that complement its recycling services.

4.11 WG has also identified communications, education and behavioural change as key components of successful recycling and waste strategies. The Council will continue to utilise targeted communications and engagement campaigns to encourage participation in recycling services, increase food waste capture, reduce contamination and promote waste prevention behaviours.

4.12 Opportunities to strengthen engagement with schools, community groups and residents will be considered as part of future service planning, recognising that sustained public participation remains critical to maintaining high recycling performance and meeting future statutory targets.

4.13 The Blueprint further recognises reuse and recycling centres as important community assets within the circular economy and encourages local authorities to maximise reuse and recycling performance wherever possible.

4.14 The Council already operates reuse facilities at Atlantic Trading Estate and will continue to review opportunities to expand reuse activities, further reduce residual waste and maximise the value recovered from materials received at its recycling centres. Future reviews of Household Waste Recycling Centre operations, including ongoing consideration of alternative service delivery models, will seek to maximise recycling performance, improve material segregation and ensure operational arrangements remain aligned with the Council's environmental and financial objectives.

4.15 Additionally, WG is placing increasing emphasis on decarbonisation, service resilience and the use of technology to support efficient service delivery. The Council is already progressing a number of initiatives consistent with these objectives such as introducing new digital technologies in the form of in-cab technology, development of the fleet parking facility at Atlantic Trading Estate, exploration of future electric vehicle infrastructure and engagement with the WG Energy Service regarding renewable energy opportunities.

4.16 Future investment in waste and recycling infrastructure will continue to consider carbon reduction, fleet decarbonisation, operational efficiency, biodiversity enhancement and digital technologies that improve service monitoring, performance management and resident engagement.

4.17 Collectively, these measures will help ensure the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy remains aligned with emerging WG policy, supports Project Zero objectives and provides a robust framework for future service development. The service area will add actions to the Strategic Action Plan, to align with the Collections Blueprint 2025, as they progress.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Contract

4.18 The Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Contract is currently delivered by FCC Environmental (FCC) under a contract arrangement comprising an initial 3-year term with 2 optional 1-year extensions. The Council is currently operating within the first extension period, and officers have commenced discussions regarding future service delivery arrangements and the potential exercise of the final extension period.

4.19 Since the contract commenced, FCC has continued to absorb a number of cost increases associated with changes in waste markets and the treatment of specific materials. In particular, the introduction of the Council's garden waste subscription service in July 2023 has increased the volume of garden waste delivered to the Council's HWRC sites. Whilst this service change has been successful and continues to support the Council's wider recycling objectives, it has resulted in additional processing costs estimated at approximately £40,000 per annum which have been borne by the contractor despite arising from a Council-led service change.

4.20 In addition, the waste management sector continues to experience significant cost pressures associated with the treatment and recycling of certain materials, particularly wood. As highlighted elsewhere within this report, wood remains subject to ongoing processing and recycling issues and now this year, significant cost increases. FCC has advised that continuing to absorb these additional costs throughout the remaining extension periods would not be financially sustainable and has therefore requested a review of the current contract arrangements as part of agreeing these extensions. This would be in the region of £30,000 and £40,000 per annum.

4.21 Officers have been in discussion with FCC for several months regarding these matters and recognise that many of the cost increases being experienced are outside of the contractor's direct control and are reflective of wider industry conditions. At the start of the extension year, Officers did suggest to FCC that they would monitor the market at the start of this year and propose to include these additional costs within this extension year, and next year (the last available extension year) subject to Cabinet consideration and approval. This was to ensure continuity of service. Officers would ensure satisfactory terms and verification of the associated costs.

4.22 There is currently an estimated contract surplus of £130,000 within the budget which would be utilised to fund the proposed variation without creating an additional budget pressure on the service. Officers consider that this approach would provide stability for the remaining contract period, maintain continuity of service and avoid the need to undertake an early procurement exercise at a time when market conditions remain challenging.

4.23 Whilst retendering the service at this stage remains an option, Officers do not consider that this would remove the underlying market pressures associated with the treatment of wood, and garden waste costs. Furthermore, the service area is currently undertaking a review of the future of the HWRC service delivery arrangements, including the potential for this service to be brought back in-house. Maintaining the existing arrangements for the remainder of the contract period would provide sufficient time to complete this review and develop longer-term proposals for Cabinet consideration.

Infrastructure Update – Llandow HWRC

4.24 The provision of a new HWRC serving the western area of the Vale, remains one of the most significant challenges identified within the Strategy. The current HWRC site at Llandow continues to operate successfully, however, the future of the site remains uncertain following the decision by the landowner to place the site on the open market. The facility is also too small and unfit for purpose, with a lack of space to accommodate reuse opportunities.

4.25 As part of the ongoing work to secure a long-term solution, the service area has held discussions with WG regarding the site and with a potential purchaser of the wider site. Initial discussions have been positive and have included the possibility of providing land for a replacement Council HWRC as part of any future redevelopment proposals, together with a commitment to work collaboratively with the Council over the longer term.

4.26 However, notwithstanding the progress made to date, the project remains subject to securing significant capital funding that will be required to acquire land and develop a new HWRC. Officers will continue to explore all available options and funding opportunities, however, no commitment can be made at this stage regarding the final location or delivery timescales for the facility.

Atlantic Trading Estate - Fleet Parking Site

4.27 The service area secured the land opposite the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) at Atlantic Trading Estate several years ago with the intention of developing a dedicated fleet parking facility to support the Council's recycling and waste management operations. The land acquired is illustrated at Appendix C, with the proposed layout and design of the facility shown at Appendix D.

4.28 The Council allocated a capital budget provision of £2.4 million for the project. Whilst this funding is sufficient to commence and start the main construction works, a further £1.2m will be required next financial year to complete the facility in its entirety, including welfare facilities and operational accommodation for staff. The requirement for this additional funding will not impact on the commencement or delivery of the main works which has a construction period of 9-12 months and will be subject to a 2027/28, internal capital bid.

4.29 As part of the existing £2.4m, to date £53k was committed in 2025/26, £1.547m is allocated this financial year and £800k in the capital programme for 2027/28.

4.30 The service area is also continuing to work with the WG Energy Service to explore opportunities for grant funding and renewable energy generation, future electric vehicle infrastructure and the availability of grant funding to support this work.

4.31 All the necessary due diligence associated with the project has now been completed and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) approval has been granted by the Council's Drainage Team in its capacity as the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB).

4.32 The service area has also progressed the planning application for the development, however, there is a delay following an objection from Welsh Water in relation to a mains water pipe located beneath the site. Officers and Welsh Water continue to work collaboratively to agree an engineering solution that will adequately protect the asset whilst allowing the development to proceed. It is anticipated that this matter will be resolved during September 2026, enabling the planning application to be presented for consideration at the earliest available Planning Committee.

4.33 Subject to the necessary planning approvals being obtained, Phase 1 of the development will commence using existing Council resources together with existing procurement arrangements for specialist works where required. This approach is expected to provide the most efficient and cost-effective method of delivering the project whilst maintaining appropriate control over programme, quality and cost. The remaining works (phase 2) will be subject to raising the required capital to complete the scheme.

4.34 Once completed, the facility will provide significant operational benefits through the reduction of unproductive vehicle movements between the Council's Alps Depot and waste management facilities at Atlantic Trading Estate. The development is expected to improve operational efficiency through reduced travelling time, improved utilisation of vehicles and crews, and a reduction in time spent discharging loads and returning to depot.

4.35 The proposal will also contribute towards the Council's wider decarbonisation ambitions. Previous assessments identified a potential and modest carbon saving in the region of 60-70 tonnes of CO_2e per annum through reduced vehicle mileage and associated fuel consumption but there is much greater potential for better performance and enhancements to productivity.

4.36 The fleet parking development represents a significant investment in the Council's waste management infrastructure and will deliver operational efficiencies, financial benefits and carbon reductions whilst improving the long-term resilience, sustainability and effectiveness of this frontline service.

4.37 Overall, the Council has successfully delivered many of the actions originally identified within the Strategy. Whilst the focus is now increasingly shifting towards responding to future legislative changes, maintaining recycling performance and preparing for emerging financial pressures, the progress made to date demonstrates that the Strategy is delivering the intended outcomes and continues to provide a strong framework for the future development of recycling and waste management services across the Vale of Glamorgan.

4.38 There are a number of legislative changes that are expected to impact on both the Council's recycling performance and the financial position of the service area. Many of these reforms have been under development for several years and will significantly alter the way waste

and recycling services are funded and delivered across Wales and the wider UK. Appended below are Legislative and Policy updates that will affect or influence the Strategy.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

4.39 WG has continued to progress the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers across Wales, with a planned implementation date of 1st October 2027 aligned with the wider UK rollout. The scheme is being introduced as part of WG's wider transition towards a circular economy and will contribute towards national waste reduction, recycling and decarbonisation objectives.

4.40 Under the new arrangements, consumers will pay a small deposit when purchasing a drink sold within an in-scope container (not initially glass). The deposit will be refunded when the empty container is returned to an approved return point. The scheme will be managed by an independent Deposit Management Organisation (DMO), appointed by Welsh Ministers, which will be responsible for managing the financial and material flows associated with the scheme.

4.41 The Welsh scheme will apply to drinks containers between 150ml and 3 litres and will include plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans and glass containers. A transitional arrangement has been introduced for glass over a period of four years, allowing manufacturers and retailers additional time to prepare supply chains, labelling systems and associated infrastructure requirements.

4.42 WG expects the scheme to significantly increase the capture of drinks containers, with established European Deposit Return Schemes achieving return rates in the region of 85% to 90%. In addition, the scheme is expected to improve the quality of recycling including reuse, reduce littering of drinks containers and support the longer-term move towards reusable and refillable packaging systems.

4.43 The introduction of DRS will have both operational and financial implications for local authorities. From October 2027, a proportion of plastic bottles and metal drinks cans currently collected through the Council's kerbside recycling service are expected to transfer into the DRS system. As a result, there is likely to be a reduction in recycling tonnages collected at the kerbside and changes to the composition and value of recyclable materials managed by the Council.

4.44 Whilst the reduction in material tonnages presents challenges in relation to collection arrangements, recycling performance monitoring and contractual arrangements, there may also be opportunities through reductions in littering, residual waste management costs and street cleansing expenditure, together with wider environmental benefits resulting from increased capture rates and improved material quality.

4.45 The service area continues to engage with local authority networks and WG to better understand the financial, operational and performance implications associated with DRS and a further update will be provided as additional guidance becomes available, the Deposit Management Organisation is appointed and details regarding implementation arrangements are finalised.

Flexible Plastic Film Collections

4.46 WG continues to progress plans for the collection of flexible plastic film from households across Wales, and local authorities have an expectation that services will be operational from April 2027. The Council is currently the only authority in Wales to have already rolled out this service.

4.47 Flexible plastic film comprises materials such as bread bags, carrier bags, food wrapping and crisp packets, which have historically been difficult to recycle through conventional kerbside collection services.

4.48 There has been development of additional UK recycling infrastructure, supported by WG investment, that is steadily improving market capacity and reprocessing opportunities for these materials.

Emissions Trading Scheme UK (ETS)

4.49 The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) is a cap and trade scheme for carbon allowances that was introduced in January 2021. The cap is reduced over time in line with the UK's commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050 and supports the wider ambitions of WG in respect of decarbonisation and carbon reduction.

4.50 At present, Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities are excluded from the UK ETS. However, the UK Government consulted during 2022 on proposals to include EfW within the scheme and WG initially indicated that the current intention is for Energy from Waste facilities to be included from 1 January 2028. However local authorities were notified on 26th August 2026 that this will be postponed, and an alternative date is yet to be determined.

4.51 The inclusion of EfW within the UK ETS would require operators to purchase carbon allowances associated with the combustion of fossil-derived materials contained within residual waste. This would affect facilities such as Viridor's Energy from Waste plant, which treats the Council's residual waste through the Prosiect Gwyrdd partnership arrangement.

4.52 Whilst there remains a degree of uncertainty regarding the final implementation arrangements and associated costs, it is anticipated that any additional costs incurred by the operator would be passed on through the Prosiect Gwyrdd contract and shared across the partner authorities. Initial estimates indicate that this could result in an additional annual cost pressure to the Council in the region of £500,000.

4.53 The Council's recycling performance will become increasingly important should ETS be introduced. Higher recycling rates and the removal of plastics and other fossil-derived materials from the residual waste stream will reduce carbon emissions associated with the treatment of waste and therefore help minimise potential ETS costs. As a result, any initiatives that increase recycling participation and divert additional material from black bags will contribute towards mitigating future financial pressures.

4.54 Officers continue to engage with WG, Prosiect Gwyrdd and other local authorities regarding the development of an appropriate methodology for allocating ETS related costs. The Council has made representations that WasteDataFlow should be used as the basis for determining each authority's contribution. This would ensure that authorities achieving higher recycling performance and lower levels of fossil-derived residual waste are

appropriately recognised, ensuring the Council is not disadvantaged by its continued investment in recycling and waste minimisation initiatives.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR)

4.55 The Council is now receiving funding through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, which is based on the principle that producers should bear the full net cost of managing the packaging they place on the market. The legislation requires obligated businesses to fund the collection, treatment and recycling of packaging waste, transferring a greater proportion of waste management costs from local authorities to the producers of the packaging materials.

4.56 The introduction of EPR represents a significant change to the funding of local authority recycling services and provides additional financial support towards the collection and processing of packaging waste. The funding also helps protect the Council against fluctuations in recyclable material values and supports the continued delivery of recycling services should income generated through the sale of recyclate reduce in future years.

4.57 In the first year of the scheme (2024/25), the Council received an EPR payment of £3.8m. For 2025/26, the Council has been notified that they will receive £3.3m. Whilst future funding allocations remain subject to national policy decisions and the ongoing development of the scheme, these additional resources provide important financial support to the service during a period of significant legislative change and budgetary challenges.

4.58 WG and the EPR scheme administrators PackUK are also considering future EPR payments associated with litter management costs. A decision regarding these arrangements is expected during 2027. If approved, any future funding could provide additional opportunities to further invest in Street Scene services or help mitigate the financial impacts of other legislative changes affecting the recycling and waste service, such as the Deposit Return Scheme and the proposed introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme for Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities.

Digital Waste Tracking

4.59 WG has confirmed that the Digital Waste Tracking (Wales) Regulations 2026 will come into force on 1st October 2026. Phase 1 will initially apply to permitted waste receiving facilities and will require relevant operators to record specified waste information within the national Digital Waste Tracking System within two working days of receipt. Household Waste Recycling Centres are not included within the initial scope in Wales.

4.60 A second phase of implementation is currently planned for October 2027 and is expected to expand the system to include carriers, brokers, dealers, waste producers, certain exempt activities and commercial waste delivered to Household Waste Recycling Centres. WG has advised that the programme remains subject to ongoing development and implementation timescales may be refined as the system evolves.

4.61 Whilst the Council is already collecting and reporting significant volumes of waste data through existing regulatory processes, officers will continue to monitor developments to ensure that Council systems, contractual arrangements and reporting mechanisms remain compliant with future requirements.

Future Recycling Targets

4.62 WG remains committed to developing a new suite of recycling and waste reduction targets beyond the current statutory target period. Work is currently underway to consider future milestones for 2030 and 2035, supporting the national ambition of achieving a zero-waste and net-zero Wales by 2050.

4.63 Initial work undertaken by WRAP Cymru has explored the technical feasibility of higher recycling performance levels whilst accounting for the removal of DRS materials from local authority recycling streams. WG has advised that further work is underway to determine future target levels and implementation timescales. This will be critical in measuring performance across local authorities should materials be removed from existing recycling streams through new legislative schemes.

4.64 There are also other recent factors that have potential to impact on the service which may influence performance and or add budgetary pressures.

Wood Waste Reporting

4.65 The reporting of wood waste recycling remains an area of ongoing discussion between WG, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and local authorities across Wales. NRW has recently completed a review of wood waste reporting arrangements and introduced a revised apportionment methodology to be applied through WasteDataFlow from the 2025/26 reporting year, onwards. The Council is currently finalising its 2025/26 recycling performance data and the proposed changes have the potential to have a significant impact on the Council's recycling rate as well as other local authorities.

4.66 NRW's proposed methodology is based on apportioning recycling and recovery performance using the average outputs from waste treatment facilities, including the proportion of material sent for panel board manufacture and the proportion sent for biomass or energy recovery. NRW has advised that authorities choosing not to adopt the prescribed methodology may receive a lower confidence assessment in respect of their reported recycling performance and may be subject to further review by WG.

4.67 The Council, together with a number of other Welsh authorities, continues to maintain that its current reporting methodology provides a more accurate reflection of the actual end destinations of wood waste collected through its Household Waste Recycling Centres. The Council's position is supported by information provided through the waste management supply chain and reflects the actual treatment and recycling outcomes achieved for the material collected.

4.68 Whilst discussions with NRW and WG remain ongoing, there is a risk that future changes to national reporting requirements could adversely affect the Council's reported recycling performance despite there being no change to the way the material is collected, managed or processed.

4.69 Officers will continue to engage with WG, NRW and other local authority representatives to ensure that any future reporting arrangements are evidence based, applied consistently across Wales and recognise the recycling performance achieved by high-performing authorities such as the Council.

4.70 For the time being, we have maintained our existing approach to reporting recycling outputs from wood recycling and have opted not to apply the general apportionment methodology. This is because doing so would adversely affect our performance figures. We remain confident in the robustness of our current process, which is supported by detailed evidence and was independently verified by NRW year on year.

4.71 Besides the recording issue, wood processing costs has significantly increased and detailed within this report is a proposal to support these costs, and to secure our recycling performance. This is also critical to maintaining continuity of service at HWRC's.

Fridge and Freezer Recycling

4.72 The Council is monitoring a developing national issue relating to the recycling and treatment of waste fridges and freezers. A number of specialist treatment facilities across the UK have experienced operational difficulties, plant closures and reduced processing capacity which has led to increasing stockpiles of waste cooling appliances awaiting treatment. As a result, a number of local authorities are beginning to experience difficulties in securing timely collections and disposal arrangements.

4.73 Unlike many other waste streams, fridges and freezers require specialist treatment due to the presence of refrigerant gases and insulating foams which are subject to strict environmental controls. The Council, like all local authorities, is therefore reliant on a limited number of specialist facilities operating across the UK. Industry bodies and local authority organisations have identified the lack of available treatment capacity as a growing national concern and have called for additional investment in recycling infrastructure.

4.74 Whilst the issue has not yet had a significant impact on service delivery, there is a risk that continued capacity constraints could lead to increased storage requirements at Council facilities whilst appliances await collection and treatment. This issue is already affecting a number of authorities across the UK and may result in additional operational and financial pressures if the situation continues.

4.75 Reacting to the ongoing problem, On the 3rd September 2026, Natural Resources Wales issued Regulatory Statement 131, introducing temporary amendments to the operation of the S2 waste exemption for the storage of waste fridges and freezers (Waste Temperature Exchange Equipment). The statement removes the requirement for weatherproof covering and extends the permitted storage period from 6 to 12 months for sites operating under a registered S2 exemption. These temporary measures have been introduced in recognition of the ongoing challenges being experienced nationally in the collection, storage and treatment of waste fridges and freezers, and will assist local authorities and other operators in managing capacity pressures while longer-term solutions are developed.

4.76 Therefore, Officers will continue to monitor the position and engage with compliance schemes, contractors and waste industry representatives to understand the longer-term implications. Should the current situation persist, the Council will consider the provision of additional temporary storage facilities to ensure residents can continue to dispose of fridges and freezers through the Council's recycling centres whilst national treatment capacity issues are resolved.

Existing Service Statistics

4.77 Since the introduction of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032), there has been a continued reduction in residual waste collected across the Vale of Glamorgan. A significant factor in achieving this reduction was the introduction of 3-weekly residual waste collections in July 2023, replacing the previous fortnightly collection service.

4.78 Whilst the frequency of collection changed, the overall residual waste capacity available to residents remained unchanged. Households previously presenting 2-bags of residual waste every fortnight are now able to present 3-bags every 3-weeks, ensuring there has been no reduction in the overall waste allowance available to residents.

4.79 The introduction of 3-weekly residual waste collections has supported the objectives of the Strategy by encouraging greater use of the Council's recycling services and reducing the amount of recyclable material being placed in residual waste. The changes have contributed towards a continued reduction in residual waste tonnages and supported the Council's wider ambitions to increase recycling, reduce waste and lower carbon emissions.

4.80 Table 1 below illustrates the residual waste tonnage collected over comparable periods during the last four years. The figures demonstrate the overall reduction in residual waste arising since the introduction of the Strategy. Whilst there was a slight increase in residual waste during 2025/26 compared with the previous year, increases were also experienced across other recycling and waste streams, indicating an overall increase in household waste arisings. The figures include waste collected through both the Council's kerbside collection services and Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Table 1.

Residual Waste	2022 / 23			2023 / 24			2024 / 25			2025/ 26		
Month / Period	Kerbside	HWRC	Total	Kerbside	HWRC	Total	Kerbside	HWRC	Total	Kerbside	HWRC	Total
April	1189.16	218.58	1407.74	1137.98	248.86	1386.84	1303.42	367.72	1671.14	1145.72	365.38	1511.1
May	1223.88	217.41	1441.29	1299.64	256.12	1555.76	1112.34	356.9	1469.24	1142.94	322.12	1465.06
June	1235.63	210.16	1445.79	1018.59	221.98	1240.57	1023.64	374.46	1398.1	966.96	273.10	1240.06
July	1170.5	225.92	1396.42	986.32	262.6	1248.92	1034.38	339.12	1373.5	1170.12	305.42	1475.54
August	1264.78	236.72	1501.5	1087.42	295.12	1382.54	1132.56	301.56	1434.12	980.76	306.68	1287.44
September	1206.57	199.7	1406.27	1137.67	262.6	1400.27	964.22	238.42	1202.64	1134.64	277.52	1412.16
October	1129	211.1	1340.1	1046.36	279.06	1325.42	1228.3	232.17	1460.47	1134.15	276.46	1410.61
November	1266.11	201.22	1467.33	1214.66	231.78	1446.44	1016.68	213.25	1229.93	1077.74	244.86	1322.6
December	1366.54	169.8	1536.34	1169.44	240.22	1409.66	1131	240.22	1371.22	1306.84	240.66	1547.5
January	1553.38	179.34	1732.72	1450.48	236.34	1686.82	1323.20	221.72	1544.92	1295.24	295.56	1590.8
February	1112.54	179.7	1292.24	1134.7	233.88	1368.58	880.52	210.96	1091.48	1123.50	282.78	1406.28
March	1274.3	215.8	1490.1	1111.24	248.98	1360.22	1078.98	263.06	1342.04	1130.8	289.94	1420.74
	14992.39	**2465.45**	**17457.84**	**13794.5**	**3017.54**	**16812.04**	**13229.24**	**3359.56**	**16588.8**	**13609.41**	**3480.48**	**17089.89**

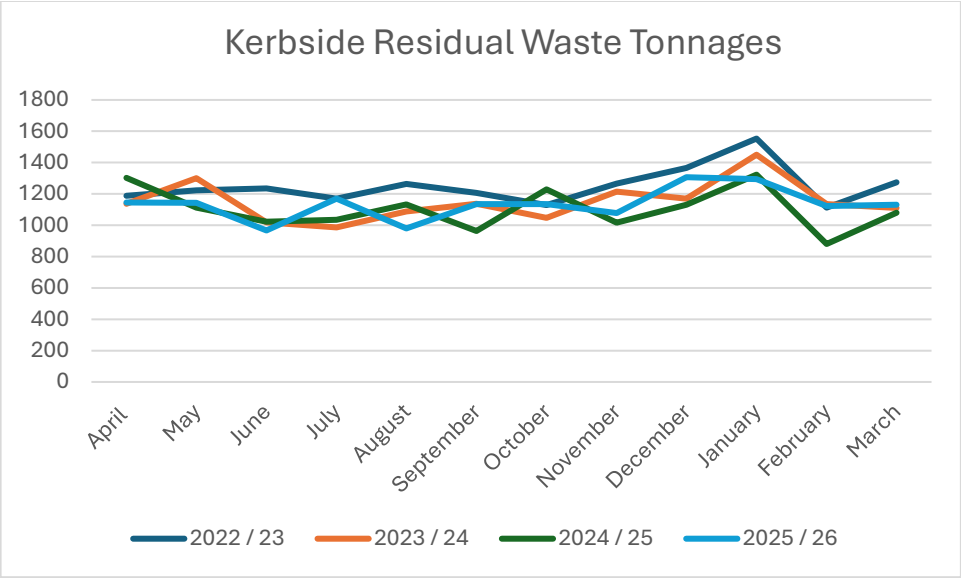
4.81 Excluding tonnage received at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), kerbside performance continues to show a positive trend. Table 2 below illustrates residual waste collected from households only and demonstrates a continued decline in kerbside residual waste since the introduction of the Strategy. The most significant reduction was recorded during 2023/24 following the introduction of 3-weekly residual waste collections, with the trend continuing into 2024/25.

Table 2.

Kerbside Residual Month / Period	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	2024 / 25	2025 / 26
April	1189.16	1137.98	1303.42	1145.72
May	1223.88	1299.64	1112.34	1142.94
June	1235.63	1018.59	1023.64	966.96
July	1170.5	986.32	1034.38	1170.12
August	1264.78	1087.42	1132.56	980.76
September	1206.57	1137.67	964.22	1134.64
October	1129	1046.36	1228.3	1134.15
November	1266.11	1214.66	1016.68	1077.74
December	1366.54	1169.44	1131	1306.84
January	1553.38	1450.48	1323.20	1295.24
February	1112.54	1134.7	880.52	1123.50
March	1274.3	1111.24	1078.98	1130.8
	14992.39	**13794.5**	**13229.24**	**13609.41**

4.82 Figure 1 below illustrates, the kerbside residual waste tonnages in table 2, year on year.

Figure 1.



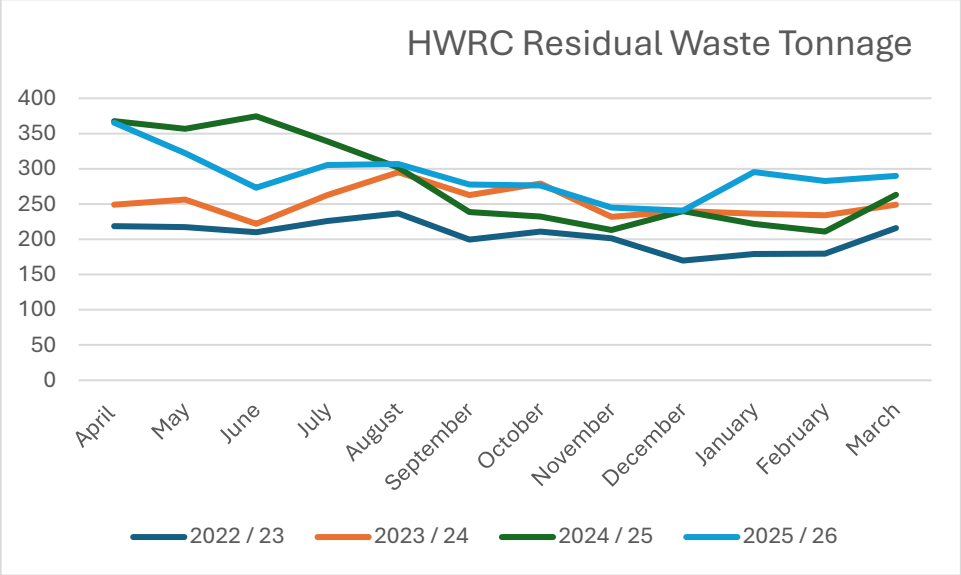
4.83 Whilst a slight increase in kerbside residual waste was recorded during 2025/26, performance remains significantly below pre-strategy levels. The increase may, in part, be attributable to the successful introduction of the soft plastics collection service which has enabled residents to remove additional recyclable material from the residual waste stream. This has created additional capacity within black bags and will need to be monitored as the service develops.

4.84 Table 3 below illustrates that residual waste tonnage received at the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) continues to increase despite the controls introduced at the sites in recent years. The continued growth in residual waste disposed of, through the HWRCs remains an area of concern and is being closely monitored by the service.

Table 3.

HWRC Residual Month / Period	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	2024 / 25	2025 / 26
April	218.58	248.86	367.72	365.38
May	217.41	256.12	356.9	322.12
June	210.16	221.98	374.46	273.10
July	225.92	262.6	339.12	305.42
August	236.72	295.12	301.56	306.68
September	199.7	262.6	238.42	277.52
October	211.1	279.06	232.17	276.46
November	201.22	231.78	213.25	244.86
December	169.8	240.22	240.22	240.66
January	179.34	236.34	221.72	295.56
February	179.7	233.88	210.96	282.78
March	215.8	248.98	263.06	289.94
	2465.45	**3017.54**	**3359.56**	**3480.48**

4.85 Figure 2 below, illustrates these HWRC tonnages year on year.



4.86 Whilst recycling performance at the HWRCs remains strong, there has been a steady increase in the quantity of residual waste requiring disposal. A number of operational interventions have been introduced by the service to address this trend, including increased monitoring of residual waste containers, encouraging residents to separate recyclable materials and working with site contractors to ensure that recyclable materials are diverted from the residual waste stream wherever possible.

4.87 These interventions have delivered positive results in the short term, particularly where additional staff resources have been deployed to support residents with waste segregation and to monitor the use of residual waste skips. However, maintaining these arrangements on a permanent basis presents operational challenges and the service will continue to investigate further opportunities to reduce residual waste tonnages at its HWRC sites and maximise recycling performance.

4.88 Under the current HWRC contract arrangements, our contractor FCC is responsible for securing recycling outlets and managing the associated recycling markets, whilst the Council remains responsible for the costs associated with the disposal of residual waste.

4.89 As a result, when recycling markets are challenging or where the cost of recycling specific materials exceeds the cost of disposal, there is potential for material to be directed to the residual waste stream, with the associated disposal costs borne by the Council. Evidence from site inspections and waste composition reviews suggests that this is occurring in some instances.

4.90 Whilst these arrangements are permitted within the terms of the current contract, the service area believes there is an opportunity to improve recycling performance and reduce disposal costs by bringing the operation of the HWRC's in-house. Greater control over site operations, material segregation and recycling performance would enable the Council to maximise the value of recyclable materials, reduce residual waste tonnages and ensure that operational decisions align with the Council's wider recycling and environmental objectives.

4.91 Officers are currently reviewing the options available and assessing the potential operational and financial benefits of an in-house service model. The outcome of this work will be reported to Cabinet for consideration at a later date, together with any recommendations for future service delivery arrangements.

4.92 Another area that remains challenging is residual waste collections from flats and apartments. The proposal to introduce 3-weekly residual waste collections which was originally identified as a means of delivering savings of £150k per annum, did not progress. The required savings were achieved through alternative measures mainly due to the issues associated with ownership of waste and a lack of recycling. The bin compounds of flats and apartments continue to present a number of operational challenges for the service and the various landlords.

4.93 The Council's Recycling Officers continue to provide guidance and support to landlords and managing agents to improve recycling participation and reduce contamination. However, there remains a need for landlords and property managers to take greater responsibility for waste management arrangements within their properties and, where appropriate, contribute towards any additional service requirements.

4.94 One area that continues to perform positively is food waste recycling, with tonnages steadily increasing over the last four years. This is a positive trend as food waste remains one of the largest components of the residual waste stream and therefore provides one of the greatest opportunities to improve recycling performance and reduce waste requiring treatment.

4.95 Increasing the amount of food waste captured through the Council's recycling service also delivers wider environmental and community benefits. Food waste presented within black bags is often a significant cause of litter associated with collection days, as bags are more susceptible to being damaged by birds and vermin in search of food. The continued growth in food waste recycling is therefore helping to improve local environmental quality, reduce cleansing issues and support the Council's wider waste reduction and recycling objectives.

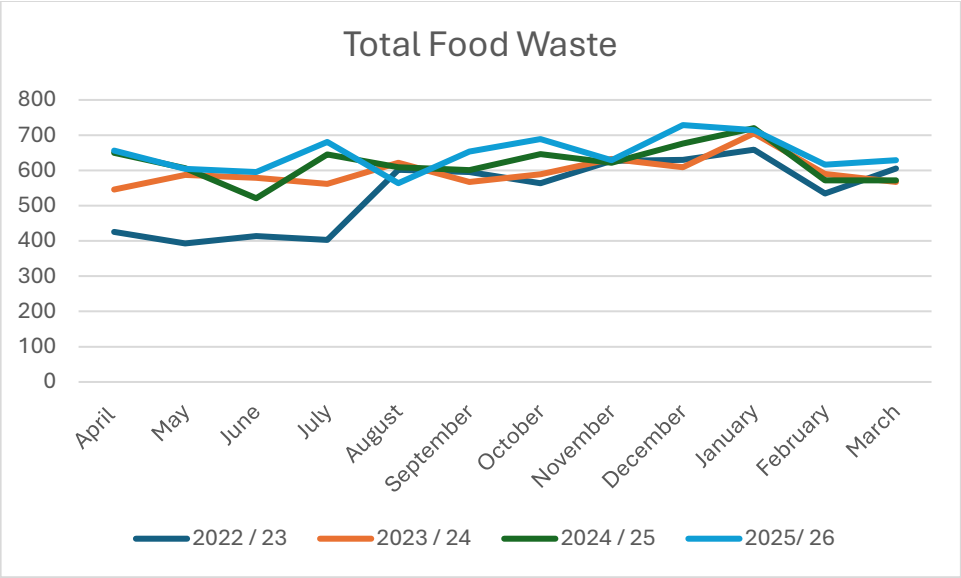
4.96 Table 4 below illustrates food waste tonnages since 2022/23 and demonstrates a continued and positive increase year on year.

Table 4.

Food Waste Month / Period	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	2024 / 25	2025/ 26
April	425.52	545.84	649.82	655.98
May	392.94	586.86	606.46	604.32
June	413.84	579.34	521.1	595.02
July	403.22	562.12	645.32	680.72
August	601.82	621.46	608.96	563.84
September	595.28	567.32	601.08	653.82
October	563.74	589.02	646.4	689.30
November	627.06	632.82	621.8	628.80
December	630.28	609.44	676.6	728.66
January	658.8	705.22	720.00	714.66
February	534.86	589.86	571.86	616.78
March	605.44	567.1	571.46	628.6
	6452.8	**7156.4**	**7440.86**	**7760.5**

4.97 Figure 3 below illustrates these food waste tonnages year on year.

Figure 3.



4.98 Food waste recycling has continued to perform well since the introduction of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032). In 2022/23, food waste arisings totalled 6,452.80 tonnes compared to 7,760.50 tonnes in 2025/26, representing an increase of more than 1,300 tonnes over the period.

4.99 The continued increase in food waste recycling is a positive outcome and demonstrates the effectiveness of the service and the continued participation of residents. Increasing the amount of food waste recycled reduces the quantity of food waste presented within residual waste, improves recycling performance and supports the Council's wider waste reduction objectives.

4.100 The food waste service forms part of the Council's Organics Treatment Contract, which also includes garden waste. Table 5 below illustrates the tonnage of garden waste collected

since the introduction of the Strategy. The figures demonstrate that, despite the introduction of a charge for this discretionary service, collection tonnages have remained consistent.

4.101 As of August 2026, the service has 14,009 subscribers and is generating annual income of £598,719. The continued growth of the service demonstrates the value residents place on the provision and supports the long-term financial sustainability of the Council's recycling and waste management service.

4.102 In addition to providing this low-cost service to residents, the collection of garden waste ensures that significant quantities of organic material are diverted from the residual waste stream and processed through appropriate composting arrangements.

4.103 The garden waste subscription service remains a popular and valued service. However, unlike other waste streams, the quantity of garden waste presented for collection is heavily influenced by weather conditions and seasonal growth. Whilst annual tonnages remain relatively stable, peaks in demand can create operational pressures and impact collection schedules.

4.104 Although the service seeks to complete collections on the scheduled day wherever possible, residents are advised within the subscription terms and conditions that collections may take up to 72 hours to complete. This flexibility enables the service to manage periods of exceptionally high demand whilst maintaining overall service reliability.

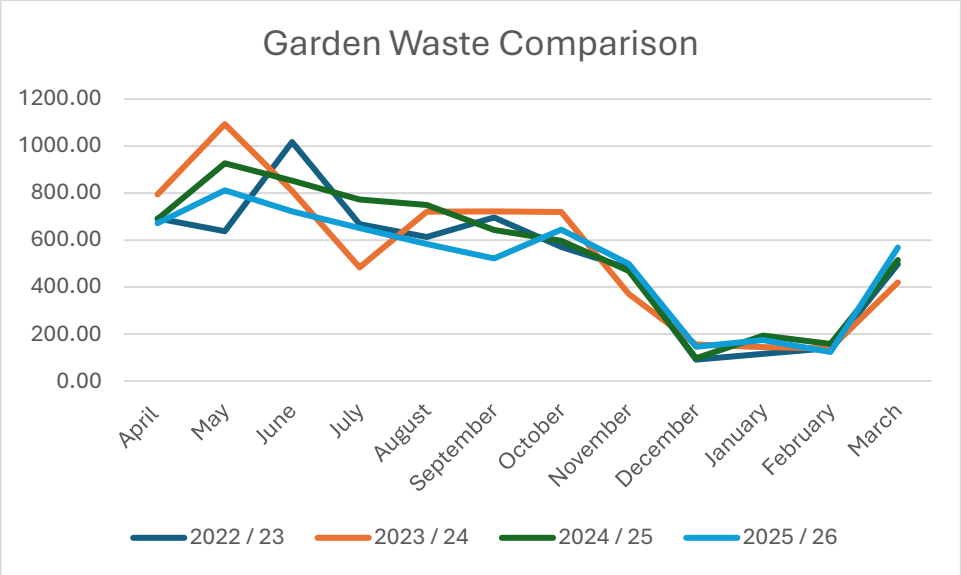
4.105 Table 5 below illustrates the tonnages for garden waste arisings, which remain consistent.

Table 5.

Green Waste	2022 / 23			2023 / 24			2024 / 25			2025/ 26		
Month / Period	Kerbside	HWRC	**Total**	Kerbside	HWRC	**Total**	Kerbside	HWRC	**Total**	Kerbside	HWRC	**Total**
April	580.43	112.12	692.55	657.28	136.72	794	446.38	242.82	689.2	409.22	262.12	671.34
May	507.7	129.48	637.18	889.62	203.38	1093	614.84	311.64	926.48	517.98	293.72	811.7
June	814.93	202.26	1017.19	655.78	153.22	809	504.02	348.26	852.28	473.86	248.24	722.1
July	550.76	117.1	667.86	344.7	138.71	483.41	513.98	258.84	772.82	408.12	242.42	650.54
August	511.04	101.38	612.42	422.54	297.92	720.46	495.34	253.92	749.26	361.64	220.90	582.54
September	605.03	91.49	696.52	495.02	226.98	722	439.38	204.06	643.44	378.12	143.68	521.8
October	498.88	71.56	570.44	496.94	222.06	719	424.88	172.46	597.34	485.46	158.40	643.86
November	430.9	48.04	478.94	282.12	88.46	370.58	361.7	106.44	468.14	385.92	112.22	498.14
December	47.46	43.8	91.26	83.09	72.55	155.64	26.3	70.72	97.02	76.4	70.12	146.52
January	48.92	66.34	115.26	66.44	77.86	144.3	104.86	89.12	193.98	107.52	66.50	174.02
February	52.84	86.94	139.78	62.58	76.4	138.98	75.06	83.68	158.74	58.06	65.60	123.66
March	422.88	74.88	497.76	307.8	112.02	419.82	356.88	158.68	515.56	430.3	137.82	568.12
	5071.77	1145.39	**6217.16**	4763.91	1806.28	**6570.19**	4363.62	2300.64	**6664.26**	4092.6	2021.74	**6114.34**

4.106 Figure 4 illustrates total garden waste arisings (tonnage) year on year.

Figure 4.



4.107 The service continues to process dry recycling materials through the new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) at Atlantic Trading Estate and the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) at Cowbridge. Both facilities play an important role in supporting the Council's recycling ambitions and ensuring materials collected from households are managed efficiently and sustainably.

4.108 Table 6 below details the tonnage of dry recycling collected and processed by the service. The figures include both source separated and co-mingled material and illustrates the transition from mixed recycling collections to the WG's Collections Blueprint model. As anticipated, some material was initially lost following the introduction of source separated collections, which is common when introducing a new collection methodology. However, performance has continued to improve year on year as residents have adapted to the service and participation rates have increased.

4.109 The continued growth in the capture of recyclable materials demonstrates the success of the service and provides a strong platform for future improvements. The introduction of additional recycling streams, including soft plastics and the proposed expansion of textile collections, is expected to further increase recycling performance and divert additional material from the residual waste stream.

4.110 During 2025/26, the service generated approximately £1.35m of income through the sale of recyclable materials, demonstrating the value of high-quality source separated recycling and providing an important income stream to support the ongoing delivery of recycling and waste management services.

Table 6.

Dry Recycling Source Segragated	2022/23	2023/24	2024/2025	2025/2026
Steel Cans	314	374	452	477
Glass	2847	3668	3869	3789
Paper	1080	1400	1251	1246
Card	2416	3416	3709	4206
Plastic Containers	1215	1714	1588	1774
Aluminium Cans	208	213	314	341
Sub-Total:	**8080**	**10785**	**11184**	**11834**
Comingled Recycling	4530	514	539	490
Total Tonnes	**12610**	**11299**	**11723**	**12324**

4.111 As dry recyclable materials are segregated, processed and stored at the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) prior to sale, tonnages are not recorded on a monthly basis. Materials are only weighed and recorded when sufficient quantities have been accumulated to dispatch a full haulage load to market. As a result, monthly performance trends would not provide an accurate representation of recycling activity undertaken at the facility.

4.112 The service continues to provide kerbside collections for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and household batteries. The service remains popular with residents and provides a convenient method of recycling items that might otherwise be disposed of within the residual waste stream.

4.113 Table 7 below illustrates the tonnage of WEEE, batteries, soft plastics and textiles collected last year or at the point of the introduction of the various schemes. Performance has remained relatively consistent and demonstrates the continued use of the service by residents across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Table 7.

Month	WEEE	Batteries	Soft Plastics	Textiles
Apr-25	3.38	0.884	-	
May-25	2.46	0.902	-	
Jun-25	4.148	0.733	20.04	
Jul-25	2.46	2.285	-	
Aug-25	2.66	-	-	
Sep-25	1.96	-	24.1	
Oct-25	1.7	0.708	-	
Nov-25	2.82	0.923	-	
Dec-25	2.2	0.89	22.56	
Jan-26	5.68	2.88	-	5.48
Feb-26	3.36	1.817	-	3.74
Mar-26	-	1.388	23.3	4.30
Total (tonnes)	**32.83**	**13.41**	**90.00**	**13.52**

4.114 The continued performance of the service has ensured that the Council achieved the ambitious statutory recycling target of 70% during 2024/25 and avoided significant financial penalties under the Waste (Wales) Measure 2010.

4.115 Based on the Council's submitted performance data for 2025/26, and subject to verification by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the Council has achieved a recycling rate of approximately 73.42%. This represents a further improvement in performance and, if confirmed, will place the Council amongst the highest performing local authorities in Wales.

4.116 The reported performance (subject to audit and verification) currently includes wood recycling tonnage submitted in accordance with the Council's existing reporting arrangements. As outlined elsewhere within this report, NRW is currently reviewing wood waste reporting methodologies across Wales. Should the final national position change, there is potential for the Council's reported recycling performance to be affected. However, any changes are likely to have implications for a number of Welsh local authorities and may also affect Wales' overall recycling performance. Officers will continue to engage with WG and NRW and will provide further updates as the position becomes clearer.

4.117 During 2024, the service introduced a trial to post-sort street cleansing waste to maximise the recovery of recyclable materials. The trial achieved recycling rates of between 70% and 74% and has made a positive contribution to the Council's overall recycling performance. Following the success of the trial, the arrangement has now been incorporated into the Street Scene service permanently.

4.118 In addition, the service continues to enhance on-street recycling facilities across the Vale's towns and key destinations. Increasing the capture of source-separated recyclable materials from litter bins reduces the amount of material requiring processing through co-mingled recycling facilities, lowering treatment costs and provides income from recyclable material.

Recycling Performance

4.119 The Council continues to be recognised as one of the highest-performing recycling authorities in Wales. Having achieved a recycling rate of approximately 71% in 2024/25, current projections indicate a further increase of around 2% in 2025/26, which would further strengthen the Council's position amongst the best-performing authorities in Wales. This reflects many years of investment in recycling services, strong public participation and a consistent focus on improving environmental performance.

4.120 Table 8 below provides a summary of the Council's overall recycling and waste management performance and brings together all recycling and waste streams managed by the service. The figure for 2025/26 is still subject to audit and verification in respect of the ongoing issues around wood recycling.

Table 8.

Performance Year	Recycling Rate (%)
2022-23	67.8
2023-24	70.4
2024-25	71.1
2025-26	73.42

4.121 Overall, the figures demonstrate the continued positive performance of the service and the progress made in delivering the objectives of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032.

4.122 Likewise, in terms of financial performance, in the recent Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) benchmarking report released this summer (2026), the Council is the 2nd lowest cost provider in Wales for cost of household waste services (all services combined). Additionally, it also ranks 2nd for net gain per tonne for commercial waste with a 24% contract increase (customers), one of the largest growth rates in Wales.

4.123 A strategic focus moving forward will be to reduce residual waste. Figure 5 below provides a snapshot of the typical contents of a residual waste bag based on the most recent composition analysis undertaken across Wales. The analysis demonstrates that a significant proportion of materials currently presented as residual waste could still be recycled through existing Council recycling services, highlighting the continued opportunity to improve recycling performance and reduce waste requiring treatment and disposal.

Figure 5.

Future Service Developments

4.124 There is an opportunity to enhance the Council's kerbside recycling service through the permanent introduction of textile collections across the Vale during November 2026. The service is currently operating successfully on a trial basis across Barry and has demonstrated that additional recyclable materials can be diverted from the residual waste stream.

4.125 The expansion of the service would provide residents with a convenient means of recycling unwanted textiles whilst supporting the Council's wider recycling and waste reduction ambitions. Increasing the capture of textiles will reduce the amount of material disposed of within black bags and contribute towards improved recycling performance.

4.126 The introduction of a Vale-wide textile collection service will also support the Council's preparations for future legislative changes, including the proposed introduction of the UK

Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS). Diverting textiles from the residual waste stream reduces the amount of fossil-derived material, including synthetic fibres and plastics, requiring treatment through Energy from Waste Facilities, helping to reduce carbon emissions, minimise future disposal costs and improve recycling performance.

4.127 There is also an opportunity to further enhance the Council's recycling service through the introduction of a weekly Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service. The proposed service would initially be introduced on a trial basis again across Barry for logistical reasons and would provide residents with a dedicated collection service for items such as nappies, incontinence pads and other absorbent hygiene products.

4.128 Absorbent hygiene products continue to represent a significant proportion of the residual waste stream and can present challenges for some households, particularly those residents storing them for up to 3-weeks. The introduction of a dedicated weekly collection service would provide additional support to vulnerable residents and families with young children, whilst removing a substantial quantity of material from black bags.

4.129 The service would operate, by inviting qualifying residents to register for the service through a booking system, similar to the subscription green waste service and collected weekly. Residents will be required to use the same system as the existing extra residual waste allocation, utilising the existing purple bag scheme. The bags can be placed out for collection in a caddy, domestic dustbin or simply in the bag at the kerbside on the normal waste management collection day. The service will operate a strict AHP policy only and will not include other residual waste.

4.130 The AHP collected will be recycled at Wales only AHP recycling site operated by NappiCycle, After sanitisation, specialist technology safely break down the items to separate the plastics from the soft cellulose fibres. Recovered plastics go to recycling plants and the fibres transform into useful commercial goods.

4.131 The proposed service would also support the Council's preparations for future legislative changes, including the potential introduction of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS). Reducing the amount of fossil-derived material contained within residual waste will become increasingly important in managing future carbon emissions and mitigating potential disposal costs, whilst contributing towards improved recycling and waste performance.

4.132 It is proposed that the service be introduced on a trial basis for the remainder of this financial year with a further report back to Cabinet reporting the performance of the trial period and any further recommendations for consideration, allowing officers to assess participation levels, operational implications, tonnage diversion and the overall benefits of the scheme and whether the service is rolled out across the Vale.

5.0 How has evidence been used to inform the report, including the views of others?

5.1 The report has been informed by a range of operational, performance and financial data collected by the Recycling and Waste Management Service. This includes recycling and residual waste tonnage data, service performance information, WasteDataFlow returns and budget monitoring information which has been used to assess progress against the objectives set out within the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032).

5.2 The report has also been informed by ongoing engagement with WG, NRW, WRAP Cymru, industry representatives and local authority networks through a range of regional and national working groups. These forums have provided updates on emerging legislative changes, policy developments and future regulatory requirements likely to affect local authority waste and recycling services.

5.3 Consideration has also been given to the operational and financial implications arising from legislative changes, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Digital Waste Tracking and the proposed introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for Energy from Waste facilities. This has enabled the Council to identify opportunities, risks and mitigating actions required to maintain service performance and prepare for future changes.

5.4 The strategic actions and infrastructure proposals contained within this report have been developed using operational experience, service performance data, benchmarking information and feedback from partner organisations to ensure that the Council remains well positioned to meet future recycling targets, legislative requirements and Project Zero commitments.

6.0 What are the next steps if the recommendations are approved?

6.1 Subject to approval, the service area will implement a new Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service on a trial basis across Barry from November 2026.

6.2 Subject to Cabinet approval, the service area will expand the successful textile collection trial currently operating in Barry and will be rolled out permanently across the remainder of the Vale from November 2026.

6.3 Subject to approval, the service area will agree a variation/uplift of the existing contract cost of up to £80,0000 per annum of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract for the 2026/27 extension period. This variation/uplift is to reflect increased market costs associated with wood recycling and the operational implications arising from the introduction of the garden waste subscription service.

6.4 Subject to the necessary Planning Consent and statutory approvals being obtained, the service area will also progress the construction of the proposed Fleet Parking Facility at Atlantic Trading Estate, supporting the continued development of the Council's waste management infrastructure.

7.0 How does this report support Vale 2030 and Reshaping?

7.1 The Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) supports the ambitions set out within Vale 2030 by delivering practical actions that improve the local environment, reduce waste, increase recycling and help tackle the climate emergency. The continued development of recycling services, investment in infrastructure and preparation for future legislative changes will help ensure the Council continues to deliver environmentally responsible services for residents whilst supporting Project Zero and the Council's wider sustainability objectives.

7.2 The report outlines a number of initiatives that will contribute towards these objectives, including the proposed rollout of textile collections across the Vale of Glamorgan, the introduction of an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection trial and preparations for future legislative changes such as the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). These initiatives will help remove additional material from the residual waste stream, increase recycling performance and reduce carbon emissions associated with waste treatment.

7.3 The report also supports Vale 2030 through the continued investment in waste and recycling infrastructure. Projects such as the proposed fleet parking development will improve operational efficiency, reduce unnecessary vehicle movements, lower fuel consumption and contribute towards the Council's decarbonisation objectives whilst ensuring services remain resilient and fit for the future.

7.4 The actions contained within the Strategy and the proposals set out within this report also support the Council's reshaping programme through the ongoing transformation of waste and recycling services.

7.5 The Council has demonstrated a willingness to introduce new ways of working, embrace service innovation and invest in solutions that deliver environmental benefits whilst maintaining efficient and sustainable service delivery. Continuing to adapt services in response to changing legislation, financial pressures and resident expectations will be essential to ensuring the Council remains well placed to meet future challenges.

8.0 How does this demonstrate the Five Ways of Working?

Long-Term

8.1 The Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) has been developed to provide a long-term framework for the delivery of waste and recycling services across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Strategy recognises the significant legislative, environmental and financial challenges facing the sector and seeks to ensure that the Council remains well positioned to meet future recycling targets, respond to changes such as DRS, EPR and ETS, and deliver sustainable waste management services over the longer term. The proposed rollout of textile collections, introduction of an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection trial and the continued investment in infrastructure such as fleet parking are all intended to support the long-term resilience and sustainability of the service.

Prevention

8.2 A fundamental objective of the Strategy is to reduce the amount of waste requiring treatment or disposal by encouraging waste prevention, reuse and recycling. The continued reduction in residual waste arising from households, increased participation in recycling services and the introduction of additional recycling opportunities through textile and AHP collections all support the prevention agenda. These initiatives will help divert additional material from the residual waste stream, reduce future emissions associated with waste treatment and mitigate the potential financial impacts arising from future legislative changes, including the proposed introduction of ETS charges for Energy from Waste facilities.

Integration

8.3 The actions contained within the Strategy recognise the links between waste management, climate change, public health, community wellbeing, financial sustainability and environmental protection. The proposals set out within this report support a number of Council priorities by reducing environmental impacts, improving operational efficiency, supporting Project Zero commitments and assisting the Council in responding to emerging national policy and legislative requirements. The report therefore demonstrates an integrated approach to service planning and delivery that considers environmental, social and financial outcomes.

Collaboration

8.4 The development and delivery of the Strategy has involved ongoing collaboration with WG, NRW, WRAP Cymru, Prosiect Gwyrdd, compliance schemes, contractors and local authority partners across Wales. This collaborative approach has been essential in responding to emerging policy changes, understanding future legislative requirements and identifying opportunities to improve service delivery. The Council will continue to work closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure it remains informed of future developments and is able to respond effectively to changes affecting the sector.

Involvement

8.5 The Strategy and subsequent service developments have been informed by operational experience, performance data, resident feedback and engagement with external stakeholders. Changes implemented since 2018 have required residents to adapt to new ways of presenting waste and recycling materials and the success of the service continues to rely on the positive participation of households across the Vale of Glamorgan. Future initiatives, including the proposed AHP collection trial and expanded textile collection service, will continue to place residents at the centre of service delivery whilst providing additional opportunities to participate in recycling and waste reduction activities.

Resources

9.0 Finance

9.1 The Recycling and Waste Management Service continues to operate within a challenging financial environment, with increasing operational costs, ongoing inflationary pressures and a number of significant legislative changes expected to impact service costs over the coming years. The purpose of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) is not only to improve environmental performance but also to ensure that services remain financially sustainable and resilient in the longer term.

9.2 The Council continues to receive funding through the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR) Scheme, which provides a significant contribution towards the cost of collecting and processing packaging waste. During 2024/25 the Council received approximately £3.8 million, with a further allocation of £3.3 million received during 2025/26. These additional resources provide valuable support in mitigating future funding pressures associated with the delivery of waste and recycling services.

9.3 There remain a number of emerging financial risks associated with legislative changes including the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Digital Waste Tracking and the proposed introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for Energy from Waste facilities. Whilst

the full financial implications are not yet known, initial assessments indicate that ETS alone could result in additional annual disposal costs of approximately £500,000 should all associated charges be passed through to local authorities.

9.4 The proposed rollout of textile collections and the introduction of an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection trial are intended to reduce residual waste, improve recycling performance and assist in mitigating future residual waste treatment costs. The additional treatment costs associated with AHP material are currently estimated to be £63,500 p.a. including transport costs but is dependent on participation levels and tonnages collected.

9.5 Current estimates indicate that approximately 550 tonnes of AHP material could be collected across Barry each year. The introduction of the service would also require additional operational resources, including one collection vehicle, a driver and a loader, at an estimated annual cost of approximately £90,500. Additionally, there may be a requirement for additional purple bags, also a tablet and some communication costs, so a provision sum of £5,000 will be allocated. However, we expect that residents disposing of AHP are already likely to be using purple bags and therefore there may not be a significant cost for receptacles.

9.6 The total annual cost of the service is therefore estimated to be in the region of £159,000. It is proposed that the trial be funded through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding by re-allocating the provision for 2026/27. Longer term, financial and operational performance of the service will be reviewed, as part of a future planned report to Cabinet in the Spring. For the remainder of this financial year the cost of the trial will be approximately £66,250.

9.7 The roll out of the textile service is likely to be cost neutral. The service already has capacity on the vehicles to collect the material, and the treatment costs are 50% less than residual waste treatment. However, it’s unlikely to deliver a saving as it’s likely that additional material will be added to the waste stream as well as textiles already contained within black bags.

9.8 The proposed fleet parking development is expected to deliver operational efficiencies, reduce vehicle mileage and fuel consumption and contribute towards long-term cost avoidance and carbon reduction. The estimated construction cost of the facility is approximately £3.6m, with an approved budget provision of £2.4m currently available within the capital programme with a further phase 2 bid, being submitted for 2027/28.

9.9 In addition to the construction works, the service is continuing to work with WG Energy Service to explore opportunities for future electric vehicle infrastructure and associated grant funding. Should external funding be secured, this could support future fleet decarbonisation initiatives and reduce the Council's long-term infrastructure costs.

9.10 The financial implications arising from the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan, fleet parking development and other infrastructure requirements will continue to be monitored through the Council's established budget monitoring and capital programme arrangements, with further reports being presented to Cabinet where appropriate.

9.11 The report also proposes to increase the contract value by between £70,000 and £80,000 for this financial year and subject to further review and agreement for next year, which will

partly be dependent on the market pressures and FCC willing to provide the service for another year, which is optional.

9.12 The agreement to review pressures, will ensure that the service provider continues the delivery of the service until the pending review of the management of the HWRC centres and the potential to bring this service in-house.

9.13 During 2025/26 the service generated approximately £1.35m from recyclable material sales and £598,719 from the Garden Waste Subscription Service, both of which provide valuable income streams that help support frontline recycling and waste management services.

10.0 Workforce

10.1 The delivery of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) continues to be supported through the existing Recycling and Waste Management workforce. The service has successfully adapted to a number of significant service changes since 2018, including the introduction of the Collections Blueprint, three-weekly residual waste collections and the expansion of recycling services, whilst continuing to achieve high levels of performance and customer service.

10.2 The legislative changes outlined within this report, including the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR), Digital Waste Tracking and the proposed introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), will require ongoing engagement, training and service planning to ensure the workforce remains prepared for future operational and regulatory changes.

10.3 The proposed rollout of textile collections across the Vale of Glamorgan, the introduction of an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection trial and the progression of the fleet parking development are intended to be delivered through existing service structures. However, the operational impact of these initiatives will continue to be monitored as part of service planning arrangements and any future workforce implications will be considered through the Council's established procedures.

10.4 Investment in waste infrastructure, technology and service improvements supports the workforce by improving operational efficiency, reducing unnecessary vehicle movements and ensuring frontline services remain resilient and capable of responding to future legislative, environmental and financial challenges. This aligns with the Council's wider commitment to continuous improvement, service transformation and the delivery of sustainable public services.

11.0 <u>Legal and Equalities</u>

11.1 **Does an Equalities Impact Assessment need to be completed? If not, why?**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposed expansion of kerbside collection services, notably a textile collection service and the AHP trial. The other parts of this report principally provide an update on the delivery of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032), service performance, legislative developments and infrastructure projects.

Legal

11.2 The new Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032) ensures compliance to current legislative framework.

11.3 The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC ("the Directive"), Article 11(1) advises Member States to "take measures to promote high-quality recycling and to this end, set up separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable and appropriate to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant recycling sectors". Subject to Article 10(2) of the Directive, by 1st January 2015 separate collection shall be set up for at least, paper, metal, plastic and glass and this requirement was transposed into UK legislation by The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 ("Waste Regulations").

11.4 Under Regulation 38, 39 and 40 respectively of the Waste Regulations, NRW may issue a compliance notice, a stop notice or a restoration notice to an establishment and undertaking which collects paper, glass, plastics or metals in contravention to the Waste Regulations. Failure to comply with these notices may result in criminal proceedings and on any summary conviction, a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

11.5 WG legal guidance prepared under Regulation 15 of the Waste Regulations allowed Welsh Ministers to give guidance on the duties in the regulations and bring articles 10 and 11(1) of the Directive into law in Wales.

11.6 Under Section 2 of the Local Government Measure 2009 Council's must "make arrangement to secure continuous improvements in the exercise of its functions". In doing so they need to have regard for strategic effectiveness, service quality and availability and fairness. Any decisions to change recycling collection services must be justified when considered against these requirements and to do so without all the evidence could breach the requirements of Section 2.

11.7 The Council has a statutory duty to provide waste collection services and to comply with a range of environmental legislation and WG policy requirements relating to waste management, recycling and decarbonisation. The legislative developments outlined within this report, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Digital Waste Tracking and the proposed introduction of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), are likely to influence the future delivery of waste and recycling services and have been considered as part of the ongoing development of the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy.

11.8 The proposed Strategic Action Plan has been developed to support the Council in meeting its statutory obligations and responding to emerging legislative requirements. The proposed fleet parking development will be subject to the necessary planning permissions, statutory approvals, procurement requirements and legal agreements before construction works commence.

Equalities

11.9 The actions contained within the Strategy are intended to improve environmental performance, increase recycling opportunities and support the delivery of efficient and sustainable waste management services across the Vale.

11.10 The proposed rollout of textile collections and the trial introduction of an Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) collection service will provide residents with additional recycling and waste diversion opportunities and may offer particular benefits to households with young children and residents requiring hygiene products arising from medical conditions. Any wider equality implications associated with future service changes will be considered through the Council's established Equalities Impact Assessment processes.

12.0 Key Contacts

12.1 **Who are the primary officers to contact with any comments and/or queries on the report?**

Lead Officer: Colin Smith – Head of Neighbourhood Services CSSmith@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Democratic Services Officer Mark Thomas Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer 01446 709279 methomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk Matt Swindell Cabinet and Committee Services Officer mlswindell@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Appendix

Appendix A – Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022 – 2032)

Appendix B – Collections Blueprint (2025)

Appendix C - Land acquired for fleet parking

Appendix D – The proposed fleet parking site design

Background Documents

None.

Appendix A

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL: DRAFT RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2032

An inclusive recycling and waste management strategy for Vale of Glamorgan Council

Contents

1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 The Legislative and Local Context	8
2.1 The Legislation	8
2.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015	8
2.3 The National Waste Strategy	9
2.3.1 Preferred Collections Blueprint	10
2.4 Local Developments	10
2.4.1 Declaration of the Climate Change Emergency	11
2.4.2 Strong Communities with a Bright Future	11
2.4.3 Vale Public Services Board	12
2.4.4 Council Review of recycling and waste collections service	12
2.5 Moving Forward	13
3.0 Our Vision and Strategic Objectives	14
3.1 Vision for Recycling and Waste Management	14
3.2 Strategic Objectives	15
4.0 Delivering the Strategy	17
4.1 Ambitious Targets	17
4.2 Innovative and Resourceful	18
4.3 Strong Communities	18
4.4 Education and Engagement	19

5.0 Delivering our Objectives and Monitoring Progress 21

5.1 Measure and review 21

5.2 Delivering our Objectives - Timeline 23

6.0 Investment 25

7.0 Glossary 26

Appendix 1: Summary Action Plan and Timeline 2020 - 2032 27

Vale of Glamorgan Summary 10 Year Action Plan and Timeline 28

Appendix 2: Service Provision 35

Appendix 3: Integrated Communications Package – a practical approach 36

Appendix 4: Well Being Goals 38

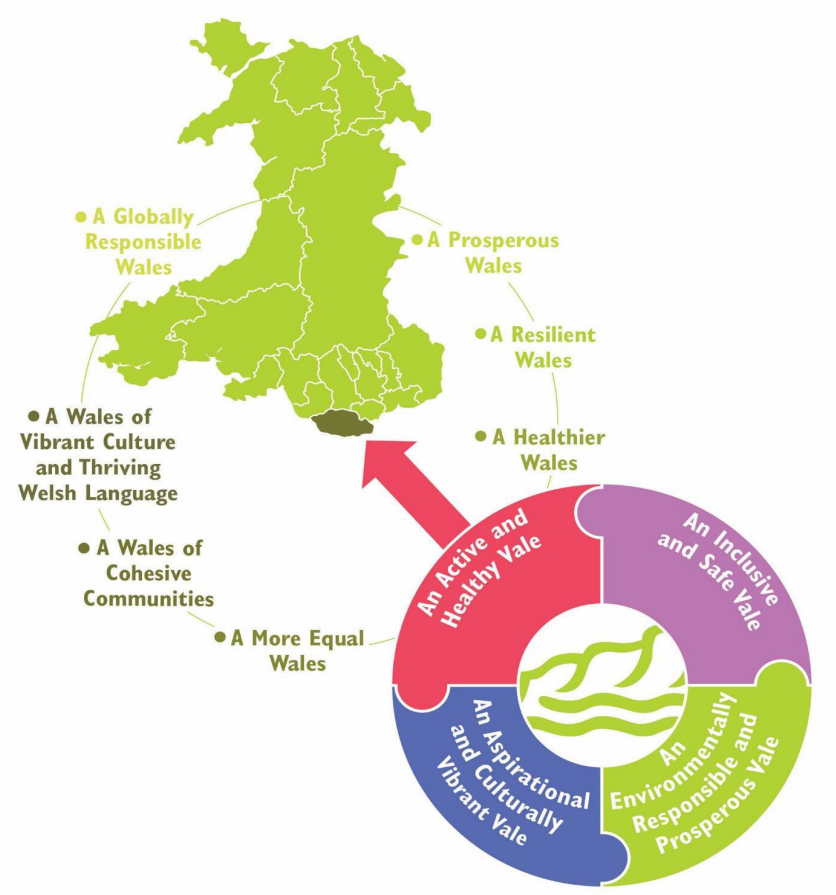
1.0 Introduction

In 2019 the Council joined the Welsh Government in declaring a Climate Emergency; recognising that we must act now to prevent our future generations from having to deal with issues that we can have a direct impact on now.

The Council is committed to working to a low carbon Wales and reducing our carbon footprint, to preventing waste and to continuing to increase our reuse and recycling rates. This Strategy will make a significant contribution to how the Council responds to the climate emergency via the Project Zero Challenge Plan which contains a specific challenge to *"Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling".*

The Council's Corporate Plan details the Council's priorities for 2020-25. The Plan sets out the actions that will be taken to deliver four well-being objectives that will improve services and well-being across the Vale. Recycling and Waste Management is an essential service provided by the Council, it is a service received by all our residents, used by local businesses and by visitors to the Vale. This Strategy will contribute to all of our objectives and the seven national well-being goals.

Figure 1: How our Well-being Outcomes contribute to the National Well-being Goals for Wales



In the Vale of Glamorgan, we have worked to achieve one of the best recycling rates in Wales with 70.4% of waste reused, recycled or composted in 2019-20. We remain committed to not only continuing this work, but to achieving the best environmental performance in Wales.

Despite our progress, we recognise that we must continue to develop our service to respond to a number of key challenges including: the global climate emergency, a growing population and ambitious statutory targets. In recent years we have also had to plan and deliver our services during the covid-19 outbreak. Services have been maintained throughout the lockdowns and we will continue to adapt how services are provided to ensure the best possible service to our customers whilst ensuring that our teams are safe.

We believe we are in a good position to respond to the above challenges and that by working together with our residents we can embed an efficient, smart and modern recycling and waste management service which will ensure we achieve our targets now and in the future.

This is an integrated Recycling and Waste Strategy which prioritises waste minimisation and promotes re-use, repair and recycling. As part of this Strategy we will explore opportunities to generate energy from waste and to deliver new employment opportunities through the development of a more circular economy.

Our Vision for recycling and waste management is to:

'Provide effective recycling and waste management services working with our communities to respect, enhance and enjoy our environment and ensure a bright future.'

As part of this Strategy, we have agreed four key objectives which will provide a framework for delivering our Vision for recycling and waste management and which will help us to contribute to the Council's overall vision of '**Strong Communities with a Bright Future.** '

Our four key objectives are:

1. **Ambitious Targets** – Minimise waste, maximise recycling and to develop a service that supports the Vale of Glamorgan to be a net zero carbon service by 2030.

2. **Innovative and Resourceful** – Use our assets and resources to transform our services so they are sustainable for the future.

3. **Strong Communities** – Work in collaboration with our communities, businesses and partners to involve them in decisions that affect them.

4. **Education and Engagement** – Encourage our residents, visitors and businesses to minimise waste, reduce carbon emissions and to consider how their actions may impact on the environment.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2020-25 includes a commitment to '***provide effective waste management services and work with our residents, partners and business to minimise waste and its impact on the environment'***. This Strategy sets how we will deliver that commitment.

We know that to achieve our key objectives and the supporting actions it will be essential to listen to and work closely with our communities. Only through engaging with our residents will we be able to ensure that we are delivering a service that meets local needs while striving to surpass the ambitious national targets.

Councillor Peter King
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

2.0 The Legislative and Local Context

2.1 The Legislation

Our Recycling and Waste strategy is aligned to a number of current European and Welsh Government policies and legislation relating to sustainable development, improved environment outcomes and addressing climate change. These include, but are not limited to the, following:

- EU Waste Framework Directive
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Towards Zero Waste
- Waste (Wales) Measure 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- EU Renewable Energy Directive
- EU Energy Efficiency Directive
- EU 2030 Climate Framework
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales
- Beyond Recycling 2021

2.2 **The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015**

In 2015, the Welsh Government introduced the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales). The Act places a duty on all public bodies in Wales to ensure that we are working to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. Seven national Well-being Goals for Wales were established through the Act and public bodies must work to deliver the Goals through the five ways of working. This Strategy has ensured that the five ways of working have been embedded through our approach to recycling and waste management in the Vale of Glamorgan.
We will seek to ensure that we:

- Work to **prevent** any increase in our waste, and engage with our communities to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Look to embed **long-term** thinking about the role of recycling and waste management and its impact on our planet.
- **Integrate** this Strategy and its actions with on-going work of our partners and other organisations to address the climate emergency.
- Continue to work in partnership and **collaborate** with our partners across the region to develop innovative approaches.
- **Involve** our local communities in shaping our service and to convey key messages about the importance of their role in helping us to address climate change.

2.3 The National Waste Strategy

Through "Towards Zero Waste" the National Waste Strategy, the Welsh Government has set ambitious targets for all Welsh Local Authorities to work towards. The National Strategy sets out the long-term framework for resource efficiency and waste management between now and 2050.

The Welsh Government's priorities for recycling and waste are:

- Provision of kerbside collection services that reduce residual waste arisings, collect high levels of clean recyclables and is at lowest overall financial cost;
- Collections services are delivered in a way that helps elicit the desired behavioral changes amongst householders whilst at the same time providing convenience;
- Provision of kerbside collection services that can provide source segregated food wastes to anaerobic digestion facilities that produce renewable energy and soil fertilizer and
- Provision of well signed, equipped and staffed Household Waste Recycling Centres that enable as many people as possible to access facilities for recycling as wide a range of materials as possible.

By 2025, the National Strategy sets-out that there will be a 27% reduction in the amount of waste produced across all sectors and that 70% of waste produced will be recycled. Of the remaining 30% a maximum of 5% can go to landfill with the remaining fraction to Energy from Waste.

The Welsh Government has introduced ambitious statutory targets for municipal waste. The targets bring with them substantial financial penalties of £200 per tonne, for not meeting the required levels of recycling and/or exceeding the allowable levels of landfill.

Table 1: Headline targets for Municipal Waste from WG – Towards Zero Waste

Target Year	2010/11	12/13	15/16	19/20	24/25
Min. levels of reuse & recycling/composting (or AD)	40%	52%	58%	64%	70%
Min. proportion of reuse /recycling /composting from source separation *	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Max. level of landfill	-	-	-	10%	5%
Max. level of energy from waste	-	-	42%	36%	30%
Min. levels of preparing for reuse (excluding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE))	-	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%

*kerbside, bring and/or civic amenity (CA) site

In 2021 Welsh Government published its strategy Beyond Recycling[1] which presents the next steps in Wales' pathway towards a circular economy. The aim is to become a zero waste, net zero emissions nation that uses a fair share of the earth's resources whilst realising the economic potential this transition brings.

What the Strategy wants to achieve in the move towards a circular economy is to:

- Become zero waste by 2050;
- Reduce emissions;
- Realise Wales' economic potential and
- Make resource efficiency part of the Welsh culture.

2.3.1 Preferred Collections Blueprint

The Welsh Government has set out a preferred Collections Blueprint in statutory guidance. This recommends a service profile for the collection of recycling from households via kerbside sort to ensure compliance to the revisions of the European Union Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and to ensure high rates of high-quality recycling, cost savings and improved sustainable development outcomes.

In 2015 the Welsh Government engaged Eunomia Research & Consulting (Eunomia) to carry out an appraisal of the Collections Blueprint to establish whether this was still the best option for a recycling and waste management service across Wales that best delivers:

- The Well Being Goals set for public bodies in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- The best overall value for money;
- Compliance with the EU Waste Framework Directive (WFD) namely
    - Article 11 – separate collection requirements;
    - Article 28 & 30 – to produce and update waste management plans and
    - High quality recycling and the best overall requirement of Articles 10 and 4 respectively of the WFD.
- Local authority landfill diversion and statutory recycling targets (SRT's) and
- Support for the drive for a circular economy in Wales and resilience in terms of recyclate markets.

Eunomia concluded that the preferred Collections Blueprint still provides clear benefits in terms of cost and material quality.

2.4 **Local Developments**

The Vale of Glamorgan has a population that has grown year on year since 2015 and according to latest 2019 estimates is an area of 133,600 people. It is projected that the over the next decade the Vale of Glamorgan's population will have the second largest growth of all Local Authority areas in Wales. It is recognised that due to this growing

[1] https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/beyond-recycling-strategy-document.pdf

population and continued population growth it will be essential for partners to work together and with our communities to address the climate emergency.

2.4.1 Declaration of the Climate Change Emergency

In 2019 the Vale of Glamorgan Council joined with the Welsh Government in declaring a Climate Emergency. Partners through the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) have agreed that addressing Climate Change is a key priority and partner organisations have signed up to a Climate Emergency Change Charter. The Charter shows how partners will work together to take action to both mitigate the impact of climate change and take positive action to reduce our emissions and carbon output. Through this commitment, the PSB will build on successful work that has been undertaken through its Well-being Plan to take forward actions to protect, enhance and value our local environment.

www.valepsb.wales/Documents/Climate-Change/Climate-Emergency-Charter-English-Final.pdf

The Council's response to the Climate Emergency is articulated in the Project Zero Challenge Plan that was approved by Cabinet and Council in July 2021. The Plan sets out a series of ambitious challenges that the organisation will take steps to meet in order for the Council to reach the net zero target by 2030 as well as working with communities to assist Wales to reach the same target by 2050. The Challenge Plan contains specific challenges to waste and recycling, community engagement and behaviour change and recognises the role of the Council as a key organisation in leading the community. www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/_Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-07-05/Project-Zero-Draft-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf

2.4.2 Strong Communities with a Bright Future

In 2020 the Council published a new five-year Corporate Plan. With four new Well-being Objectives which provide a framework for how the Council will contribute to the national well-being goals and improve economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being. The four well-being Objectives are:

- To work with and for our communities;
- To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth;
- To support people at home and in their community and
- To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment.
-

The Plan includes a commitment to provide effective waste management services and work with our residents, partners and businesses to minimise waste and its impact on the environment. Each year an Annual Delivery Plan will set out the activities that will be taken to deliver the Corporate Plan and these will also be detailed in relevant service plans. Progress will be monitored and scrutinised through the year. The Recycling and Waste Management Strategy will form part of a suite of policies and plans which will ensure the

Council has an effective response to the climate emergency. These include planning policies, transport plans, the Asset Management Plan and procurement policies.'

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Our%20Council/Achieving%20our%20vision/Corporate-Plan/Corporate-Plan-2020-25/Corporate-Plan-2020-25-final-post-consultation.pdf

2.4.3 Vale Public Services Board

In 2018 the Public Services Board (PSB) published its Well-being Plan and partners are working together to improve local well-being. The Plan includes an objective to 'protect, enhance and value our environment' and this Recycling and Waste Management Strategy will contribute to the successful delivery of that objective.

https://www.valepsb.wales/en/Our-Plan.aspx

2.4.4 Council Review of recycling and waste collections service

In 2017, following the Welsh Government study detailed above, the Council received support through the Welsh Government's Collaborative Change Programme (WRAP) to undertake a review of its recycling and waste collections services. WRAP undertook a modelling exercise of 7 different service configuration options, the modelling projected the number of vehicles and crews required to achieve the most cost-effective service ensuring compliance and sustainable performance to achieve Statutory Recovery Targets (SRTs).

WRAP's review found that the most economic and sustainable method from the service appraisal was in accordance with the Welsh Government's Collections Blueprint methodology, and the collection of recycling via kerbside collection. This approach also provides revenue savings in the longer term once the service is operating to its full efficiency.

Each option included restricted black bags to ensure the achievement of its next SRT of 64% by 2019/20 and the final target under WG's current waste strategy "Towards Zero Waste" of 70% by 2024/25.

The recycling and waste blueprint that has been adopted has seen the introduction of:

- 2 collections per household per week incorporating the separate collection of residual waste (restricted) and garden waste alternative weeks to the residual and
- the collection of source separated dry-recycling and food combined, using lightweight multi-compartment vehicles and 2 loaders.

The Vale of Glamorgan's service configuration and contractual arrangements are outlined in Appendix 2 Service Provision.

2.5 Moving Forward

This Strategy, with its commitments to minimise our waste and promoting reuse and recycling will be an essential part of our work. How we will take forward specific messages and engage with communities on recycling and waste management is outlined against the objectives in this Strategy. There is a direct link however, to ensuring consistent and effective communication regarding the importance of taking steps to address the climate emergency in the Vale of Glamorgan.

3.0 Our Vision and Strategic Objectives

This Strategy sets out a long-term vision for recycling and waste management services and goes beyond simply meeting Welsh Government targets. It identifies a single integrated approach which sets out how the Vale of Glamorgan Council will:

- Achieve its' vision for Recycling and Waste Management Services;
- How it will **work** with others and **uphold the values** of the Vale of Glamorgan;
- How it plans to **engage** with and **involve** residents, business, visitors and stakeholders in the delivery of its' objectives;
- Align its' services with the overall Corporate Objectives; and
- Place the national **well-being goals** and **five ways of working** at the heart of all that it does.

3.1 Vision for Recycling and Waste Management

Provide effective recycling and waste management services working with our communities to respect, enhance and enjoy our environment and ensure a bright future

3.2 Strategic Objectives

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has four values which are detailed in the Corporate Plan. These values are reflected within this Strategy and embedded in the actions we will undertake to deliver our Objectives.
Our four Values are:

Ambitious – forward thinking, embracing new ways of working and investing in our future;

Open – open to different ideas and being accountable for the decisions we make;

Together – working together as a team that engages with our customers and partners, respects diversity and is committed to quality services and

Proud – Proud of the Vale of Glamorgan: proud to service our communities and to be part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

We will work to ensure that services are provided for everyone, that we listen to our residents and work in partnership to improve the services we provide.

Our four key Objectives will provide a framework to ensure we continue to improve services for customers and other stakeholders.

Objective 1 – Ambitious targets – Minimise waste, maximise recycling and to develop a service that supports the Vale of Glamorgan to be a net zero carbon service by 2030.

Objective 2 – Innovative and resourceful – Use our assets and resources to transform our services so they are sustainable for the future.

Objective 3 – Strong communities – Working in collaboration with our communities, businesses and partners.

Objective 4 – Education and Engagement – Encourage our residents, visitors and businesses to minimise waste, reduce carbon emissions and to consider how their actions may impact on the environment.

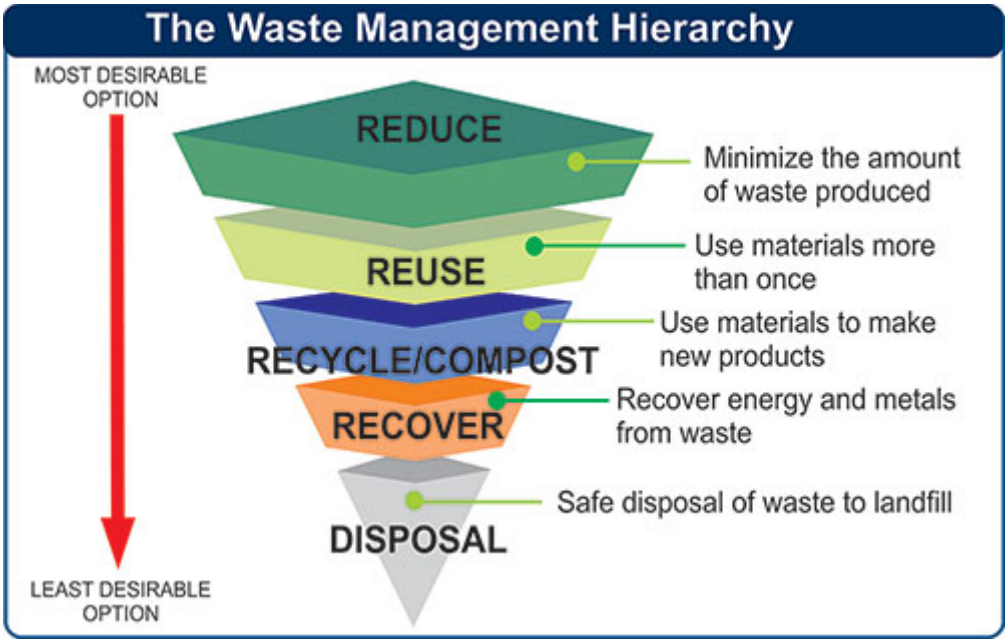
There are clear synergies between the Strategy's objectives and the challenges contained within the Project Zero Challenge Plan.

This Strategy reflects our commitment to protect and sustain the environment and provide all our residents, local businesses and visitors with an efficient, smart and modern recycling and waste management service now and for the future.

In future we must all prevent waste from being generated, where we cannot prevent, we must reduce, repair, re-use, recycle and compost more. Waste must be considered a resource from which as much value as possible should be recovered.

Disposal should only ever be the last resort as illustrated in the Waste Hierarchy in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2: *Waste Hierarchy.*



4.0 Delivering the Strategy

A Summary Action Plan and Timeline of key actions and commitments that have already been implemented and those which will be taken to deliver this 10-year Strategy is shown at Appendix 1.

This section details the actions that will be undertaken to deliver each of the four key objectives that underpin the strategy. At the relevant time each action will be evaluated to ensure that it continues to align with the Strategy, delivers an effective and affordable solution, and is financially viable and offers value for money.

4.1 Ambitious Targets

Minimise waste, maximise recycling and to develop a service that supports the Vale of Glamorgan to be a net zero carbon service by 2030.

Through this objective we will:

Achieve the **best environmental performance** in Wales, at an affordable and **low cost** whilst ensuring **high levels of customer satisfaction**.

The actions we will take:

- Complete the roll-out of the new household collection service to minimise waste and its impact on the environment.
- Build and open a **new and modern** household waste recycling centre to replace Llandow.
- Introduce the collection of further materials at the kerbside.
- Further **enhance the service** and consider the introduction of the collection of Absorbent Hygiene Products and nappies at the kerbside.
- Review the end markets for recyclate material to utilise UK only markets to **minimise our carbon footprint**.
- Carry out **performance and efficiency reviews** of the entire service to ensure that services are the best they can be.
- Review the residual waste frequency and capacity to minimise waste and maximise the capture of recycling.
- Develop and grow the trade waste and recycling service to respond to the Environment Act and promote the **transfer of recycling behaviours from the home to businesses and schools**. Give every opportunity to our local businesses and partners to participate in the correct manner.
- Provide services that support all businesses in the Vale of Glamorgan to reduce their carbon footprint and become more resource efficient.

4.2 Innovative and Resourceful

Use our assets and resources to transform our services so they are sustainable for the future.

Through this objective we will:

We will ensure that we put in place future fit infrastructure across the Vale of Glamorgan to enable our communities to help us to meet our targets. We will continue to modernise, reduce our carbon footprint to embed sustainability across our service.

The actions we will take:

- Build a new and future proofed waste transfer station at Atlantic Trading Estate to support front line services.
- Review market developments to identify **further materials for recycling** and capture at the kerbside, and at our HWRCs.
- **Improve our town centres and beaches** with “On the go” recycling bins to capture recyclate, minimise waste and reduce litter in the environment.
- Review market treatment options for street sweepings to further increase recycling.
- When appropriate and financially viable, we will replace our street cleansing and beach cleansing fleet with zero emissions vehicles to **reduce our carbon footprint**.
- We will modernise the way we collect the material from our homes and businesses to reduce transport emissions of carbon dioxide and improve air quality, by introducing zero emission vehicles and investing in the infrastructure to renewably charge and power them.
- Investigate opportunities for alternative sources of **renewable energy** to power our Resource Recovery Facility and depot to **reduce our carbon footprint**.
- In the future source more sustainable, local and low carbon materials through our procurement activities. Moving away from those materials with the highest carbon footprint and ensure that prevention and reuse are considered first.

4.3 Strong Communities

Working in collaboration with our communities, businesses and partners.

Through this objective we will:

We will aim to bring communities together to develop initiatives relevant to their area and particular needs, in particular those which reduce waste and promote re-use and repair.

We will support our communities to do the small things that add up to making a big difference. We will engage young people so they can actively learn about and be part of resource efficiency action.

Where we need to procure goods and services, for example in the building of the new waste transfer station and the HWRC we will seek to maximise the community benefit by awarding contracts locally, if economically viable, and to promote employment from within our communities.

The actions we will take:

- Open a **reuse shop** at the HWRC at Atlantic Trading Estate. The re-use site shop will enable the sale of household items which will yield benefits of improved recycling rate, access to furniture and items for the community, and although likely modest in value, will generate income for re-investing into the service and into the community. We will work closely with the third sector to create work programmes to improve employability and opportunity for unemployed residents, through experience at the re-use shops.

- Create facilities at the new HWRC, replacing the Llandow site, to capture items suitable for reuse and for sale at the Atlantic Trading Estate reuse shop.

- Rollout recycling services to all flats and HMOs ensuring that **all residents can participate**.

- Continue to enforce our **no side waste policy** working with our stakeholders to ensure actions are explained and the outcomes understood.

- We will also harness the power of our staff so that they can be advocates of the services we provide and promote the objectives driving them.

- Create a network of **Community Recycling Champions** made of individuals dedicated to minimising waste and maximising recycling. They will be equipped with training, communications materials and basic equipment to empower them to:

    - promote behaviours that align with the waste hierarchy;
    - encourage the transfer of behaviours adopted at home into the school environment or place of work and
    - promote the values and objectives of the Council.

4.4 Education and Engagement

Encourage our residents, visitors and businesses to minimise waste, reduce carbon emissions and to consider how their actions may impact on the environment.

Customer engagement and education is an integral part of ongoing and future activities, in relation to the provision of waste and recycling services, and the **Vale of Glamorgan Council,** will ensure that our communications will deliver VOGC namely:

- **V**alue for money using tried and tested materials, tactics and messages;
- **O**ptions and opportunities for change and improvements in services and environmental outcomes;
- **G**uidance and give positive re-enforcement to drive behaviour change, and
- **C**lear and specific actions required to deliver improvements.

Through this objective we will:

Encourage more residents, businesses and partners to recycle the correct things.
Maximise awareness of the benefits of recycling amongst residents, businesses and partners, and
Understand the need for improvement and change as new opportunities for recycling emerge.

The actions we will take are:

- **Provide guidance, information and assistance** to enable all residents to access all services to maximise recycling and minimise waste.

- Deliver a behaviour change programme to continue to promote the services available to residents to achieve our **Ambitious Targets**.

- Engage with all schools and council offices to **grow the trade waste and recycling business** and to provide a service that allows them to contribute to our **Ambitious Targets**.

- Ensure our trade waste services are **competitive, affordable and accessible** for all local businesses and schools.

- Work closely with our network of **Community Recycling Champions** to ensure a sustainable approach to waste minimisation and recycling in the workplace and our education facilities.

- Carry out regular resident surveys to ensure we deliver against our service commitments and **residents are involved** in future decisions we make.

- Provide informative communications to inform residents and businesses of service developments and **options and opportunities** available to them to help deliver our **Ambitious Targets.**

Our approach when considering how we engage and communicate with our residents and stakeholders is described in Appendix 3 – Integrated Communications Package – a practical approach.

5.0 Delivering our Objectives and Monitoring Progress

5.1 Measure and review

Annual Review – The Vale of Glamorgan will regularly review the outputs of this Strategy and action plan. Officers and Elected Members will monitor costs and progress against waste and recycling targets. Officers will work within the Vale of Glamorgan's scrutiny committee process to ensure that members are aware and have the opportunity to examine progress against the actions needed to deliver this strategy.

Mid-point Review - As this Strategy covers such a significant time period it is also likely that other external factors such as changes in the financial markets, new legislation, developments in technology and indeed developments within Vale of Glamorgan itself, mean that it is sensible to undertake a more significant review in 2024, or before a significant policy decision point.

Post Service Change Review and Monitoring and Measurement - to understand the impact of any change of any service change or service enhancement key metrics will be captured to measure the baseline position and also the position post service change. This information will be captured and analysed by the Directorate of Environment and Housing and reported to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport.

The long-term Action Plan and Timeline, in Appendix 1 identifies performance and efficiency reviews and regular resident surveys.

The monitoring data to be captured can be found in Table 2 below.

Key questions will be included within the public opinion survey, which is undertaken every 2 years, to gather feedback on Council services. In developing the actions, and changes needed to the service, we have considered what our services should look like to achieve our **Ambitious Targets.**

Table 2: Key Performance Indicators

Service Change or Engagement Activity	Data	Frequency
Kerbside Collections	Recycling and Waste Tonnages	Monthly
	Recycling Rate	Quarterly
	Service Costs	Monthly
	Number of households	Monthly
	Service Set Out and Participation	Annual
	Public Opinion Survey	Every 2 Years
Periodic Re-routing exercise	Number of vehicles	Annually
	Number of Households	Monthly
	Service Costs	Annually
Household Waste Recycling Centres	Waste and Recycling Tonnages	Monthly
	Recycling Rate	Quarterly
	Amount of Material Sent for Re-Use	Monthly
	Capital and Operational Costs	Monthly
	Site Usage	Monthly
	Public Opinion Survey	Every 2 years
Engagement and Education	Food Waste Participation Numbers	Annually
	Recycling Participation Numbers	Annually
	Public Opinion Survey	Every 2 years
Trade Waste and Recycling	Waste and Recycling Tonnages	Monthly
	Recycling Rate	Quarterly
	Capital and Operational Costs – including profit and loss accounts	Monthly
	Number of Customers	Monthly
	Number of Customers Gained and Lost	Monthly
	Average Cost Per Lift and Average Charge Per Lift	Annually

If the Vale of Glamorgan achieves its' **Ambitious Targets** and delivers against its' objectives Figure 3, below, describes what services will look like for stakeholders.

Table 3: What Good Looks Like for Vale of Glamorgan

Welsh Government Strategic Target Areas	Current position	2024/25 Targets	What Does Good Look Like for the Vale of Glamorgan
Min. levels of reuse & recycling/composting		70%	• 100% of residents have collections services enabling them to recycle • Residents have access to information allowing them to participate in maximising recycling • Any waste that is produced is placed in correct recycling containers • Council provides collections of the right container at the right place and on time • Businesses and schools within the Council can access recycling and waste services
Min. proportion of reuse /recycling /composting from source separation (incl. bring banks and HWRCs)		80%	• Council sources economic and environmental solutions for an increased range of materials • Residents are informed on the range of materials and bring minimal non-recyclable waste to the HWRCs • Residents have places to go where experts can repair broken goods and extend their life • Residents have advice on how to upcycle their own goods and textiles • Reuse centres are available and accessible for the community benefit
Max. level of landfill		5%	• Maximum sorting and capture of materials at kerbside and HWRCs • Minimum food waste generated • Information freely available to all residents to minimise waste • Community Recycling Champions acknowledged and engaged by stakeholders
Max. level of energy from waste		30%	• Council has in place policies that give every resident business and visitor the opportunity to participate in services in the correct manner to maximise recycling
Min. levels of preparing for reuse (excluding Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE))		1.0%	• Residents have access and use reuse shops and reuse networks where they can pass on goods to others • Reuse services generate an income for re-investing into the service and into the community • Council creates work programmes to improve employability and opportunity for unemployed residents

5.2 Delivering our Objectives - Timeline

Appendix 3 not only identifies the short-term actions to complete the roll-out of the Collections Blueprint in the next 2 financial years, but also identifies the key actions to deliver the Vale of Glamorgan's Objectives and to become a net zero carbon Council in

2030. They outline our commitment to continuous improvement, the delivery of statutory objectives and engagement with our community throughout the process.

The dates and years indicated are those at which we will start work on the evaluation and delivery of any specific action.

How these actions will be tactically delivered, including the detailed content and roll-out of the integrated communication, supporting these Objectives, will be determined at the point each project and element of change is to be implemented.

Greater detail about the specific actions that will be undertaken to deliver the objectives set out in this Strategy, and how performance and success will be monitored, will be set out in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan and with the Annual Service Plans of contributing service areas.

6.0 Investment

There are number of actions included in Appendix 1 which will require capital investment. For capital spend that continues to move the Council towards the Welsh Government Collections Blueprint, the Vale of Glamorgan will prepare capital grant applications justifying how the investment would assist in meeting or exceeding of statutory targets through the identified service change or enhancement. In addition, internal invest to save business cases will be developed. These case by case reviews will determine whether the strategic actions will be included in the Council's **Annual Delivery Plan** and **Annual Service Plans** for the year in question.

Other actions will require revenue investment from within a revenue budget which is increasingly stretched. In these circumstances a case by case cost benefit analysis will be carried out to identify how the actions can be delivered though invest to save means.

To underpin this Strategy the Directorate of Environment and Housing have prepared a detailed Business Plan which includes a financial plan to take account of the various sensitivities associated with the service, such as material values and future legislative changes. The recycling and waste services financial plan will be continually monitored via the Council's budgetary reporting arrangements.

Value for money – for each communications initiative and service change we will ensure value for money and will look to tap into national initiatives and adopt existing toolkits, to utilise WRAP communications and operational experts and **collaborate** with surrounding authorities to adopt best practice, as it exists.

7.0 Glossary

- **Annual Delivery Plan** - The Annual Delivery Plan details the actions that will be undertaken in each year to improve local well-being and deliver the Council's four Well-being Objectives.
- **Annual Service Plan** – The Annual Service Plan will detail what specific actions and measure will be taken to deliver the objectives and commitments of the recycling and waste services department.
- **Collections Blueprint** - describes the Welsh Government's recommended service profile for the collection of waste from households. It provides a system that, if adopted across the whole of Wales, would result in high rates of high-quality recycling, significant cost savings and improved sustainable development outcomes.
- **Corporate Plan 2020 – 2025** - In this plan Vale of Glamorgan presents four new well-being objectives that it believes complement each other and collectively will contribute towards the seven national well-being goals. This Plan sets out why Vale of Glamorgan chose four objectives and how it will achieve them.
- **Public Services Board** – Public Services Boards were established as part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Our Vale/Ein Bro - The Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) brings together senior leaders from public and third sector organisations across the Vale of Glamorgan to work in partnership for a better future and the PSB's priorities are set out in the Vale Well-being Plan. https://www.valepsb.wales/en/Home.aspx

Appendix 1: Summary Action Plan and Timeline 2020 - 2032

These are the key actions – how they will be tactically delivered will be determined at the point each project / change is to be implemented.

Vale of Glamorgan Summary 10 Year Action Plan and Timeline

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
HWRC	**Ambitious targets**					Opening of new second HWRC site	→	→	→	→	→	Opening of new second HWRC site		Land and capital requirements on-going
	Strong Communities			Re-use shop opened at ATE		Second Reuse shop at HWRC	→	→	→	→	→	Second Reuse shop at HWRC		Land and capital requirements on-going
	Ambitious targets Strong Communities				Commercial waste and recycling streams in to HWRCs	Commercial waste and recycling streams in to HWRC's	→	→	→	→	→	Commercial waste and recycling streams in to HWRC's		HWRC recycling being taken into RRF. No facility to manage commercial waste at HWRCs
Kerbside Recycling	**Ambitious targets**	Complete rollout of Blueprint Service to Barry		Complete rollout of Blueprint to Penarth (Final Phase) including WEEE and batteries										All complete
	Ambitious targets			Introduce WEEE and batteries collections for Phases 1 and 2	Consider textiles recycling market and the introduction of collections									All complete

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
	Ambitious targets			Consider AHP subscription service	→	→	→	Consider AHP subscription service						To be considered by Cabinet for 2026/27
	Innovative and Resourceful				Market review to identify further opportunities for extending recycling materials. Introduce financially viable new materials for recycling – e.g. Plastic bags / film	Consolidate extended service to maximise recycling								All complete. Regular marketing reviews are undertaken annually. New streams have been rolled out, and the Strategy proposes new kerbside services.
	Innovative and Resourceful				Improve capture of recyclate in the Street Cleansing service with 'On the Go' bins, segregation of litter picking waste	Review street cleansing sweepings and material capture								Complete but roll out of alternative street bins will be an ongoing investment and transition for a number of years.
	Innovative and Resourceful			Review market for conversion kits for alternative fuels for collection vehicles.			Review Market for alternative fuel vehicles to reduce carbon	Purchase new alternative fuel fleet			**New action** : Transition to new EV fleet	**New action:** Transition to new EV fleet		Two new recycling EV vehicles received. Need to raise capital for roll out
	Innovative and Resourceful							Replacement fleet to be future proof for new / additional materials						Alternative vehicles currently being demonstrated

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
	Strong communities				Improve recycling capture at all Council locations.									New source separated service introduced across corporate buildings
	Ambitious targets			Rollout bespoke recycling solution to all flats and HMO households – after final phase rollout										Completed. All areas have access to a bespoke service.
	Ambitious targets			Review end markets destination to focus on UK to minimise carbon footprint			Review end markets destination to focus on UK to minimise carbon footprint				Review end markets destination to focus on UK to minimise carbon footprint			Complete and ongoing annually
	Ambitious targets				Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management services at Vale				**New Action:** Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management services at Vale				**New Action**: Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management services at Vale	Complete. Two new review points added
	Ambitious targets				Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management services at Barry	Carry out full performance and efficiency review of waste management services		Carry out full performance and efficiency review of waste management services	→	Carry out full performance and efficiency review of waste				Deferred due to on-going changes, infrastructure development, and new

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
										management services				pending legislation
	Engage and communicate				Deliver behaviour change programme 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign.	On-going follow up 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign in low participating areas	On-going follow up 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign in low participating areas	On-going follow up 'Keeping up with the Joneses' campaign in low participating areas						Complete – ongoing service changes ensures the area is always high performing and innovative
Kerbside Residual	**Strong communities**	Re-introduce residual waste controls following COVID-19	Continue with additional waste controls	Continue with additional waste controls	Continue with additional waste controls				**New Action:** Continue with additional waste controls		**New Action:** Continue with additional waste controls			Additional review points added.
	Ambitious targets				Review residual collection capacity / frequency	Trial further reduction in residual capacity / frequency	Introduce reduced residual capacity / frequency	Consolidate new service to maximise recycling		**New Action:** Review residual waste collections				Additional review points added.
	Innovative and resourceful				Review market for conversion kits for alternative fuels for collection vehicles.		Review Market for alternative fuel vehicles to reduce carbon	~~Purchase new alternative fuel fleet~~						Conversion kits not viable. Services area moving towards EV vehicles
	Ambitious targets				Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management					**New Action:** Carry out performance and efficiency				Additional review point added

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
					services at Vale					review of waste management services at Vale				
	Ambitious targets			Carry out performance and efficiency review of waste management services at Barry		Carry out full performance and efficiency review of waste management services			Carry out full performance and efficiency review of waste management services					On target
Waste Transfer Station	**Innovative and resourceful**		Build new waste transfer station	Build new waste transfer station		Investigate alternative sources of energy for WTS e.g., water capture / wind / solar								PV panels due to be installed at the RRF this financial year
Trade Waste	**Strong communities**			Investigate vehicle options to be able to offer a multi stream recycling collection. Introduce revised pricing structure and respond to Environment Act	Re-launch trade waste service to be recycling led. Focus on conversion of customers to recycling	Grow service - review service to provide access to all local businesses			**New Action:** Review retail customers and develop service area growth and customer base.					The majority of schools will have moved over to the in-house service this financial year and a new action point added for retail.
	Ambitious targets				Focus on food waste collections for businesses and schools.									Complete although retail growth slower than expected.

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
														New action point added above.
	Engage and communicate				Target all schools and Council buildings to develop and grow trade waste service									Complete
	Strong Communities				Create network of Community Recycling Champions in schools, Council Buildings and local businesses	→	→	→	Create network of Community Recycling Champions in schools, Council Buildings and local businesses					Delayed as a result of service changes and alternative focus.
Engagement and Education	**Engage and communicate**	Comms to support re-introduction of residual waste controls	Comms to support ongoing residual waste controls	Participation set-out and compositional analysis study	Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would		Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would	→	**New Action:** Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would		**New Action:** Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would		**New Action:** Survey residents to ensure we are delivering what we said we would	The action in 2025/26 is delayed due to ongoing service changes. This will be picked up next FY following further roll outs and added for every other year.
	Engage and communicate **Strong Communities**				Build education centre at ATE WTS	Focussed and targeted communications to minimise waste			**New Action:** Focussed and targeted		**New Action:** Focussed and targeted		**New Action:** Focussed and targeted communications to	New action points added. Education centre not

Service	Strategic Objective	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	Comments
				Local Government Elections		70% Recycling Target					Net Zero Carbon target	Net Zero Carbon target		
						generation and reduce carbon			communications to minimise waste generation and reduce carbon		communications to minimise waste generation and reduce carbon		minimise waste generation and reduce carbon	possible on current site. Regular communications such as "Be Mighty" are on-going annually.
Communication supporting service changes	**Engage and communicate**			Publicise and market the new reuse shop	Communications for reduced capacity / frequency residual collections									Complete - Reuse shop now operating
	Engage and communicate			New social media communications for reuse HWRC site shop								**New Action:** New reuse shop for the western vale		A new action added with ambition to open a new western vale reuse shop
	Strong communities				Commercial marketing of trade waste and recycling service				**New Action:** Commercial marketing of trade waste and recycling service					Complete but a further review point added to increase market share

Appendix 2: Service Provision

The table below describes the services description that will be provided by Vale of Glamorgan once it has completed the roll-out of its service changes. Rural Vale was changed to this service configuration in September 2019, ~~and~~ Barry in October 2020, Dinas Powys and Penarth ~~will change from~~ Autumn 2022.

Vale Of Glamorgan County Council – Service Provision	
Service Element	
Residual Waste (since Sept 2018)	Collected ~~fortnightly~~ 3-weekly. Each household is permitted to put out ~~2~~ 3, standard sized, black bags ~~per fortnight~~ every 3-weeks, with no side waste accepted. Larger families and those producing non-recyclable waste such as pet/nappy waste are permitted to apply for an additional allocation. New AHP weekly service from November 2026 (subject to Cabinet approval)
Dry Recyclate	• Weekly collection of recyclate for all households in reusable hessian sacks (card, paper, cans, plastics, WEE, batteries, textiles and mixed soft plastics in a separate blue bag) and a 40-litre grey caddy (glass) • Recyclate collected weekly includes food tins and drink cans, empty aerosols, newspapers, magazines and junk mail, catalogues and telephone directories, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, mixed plastics, Tetra-paks, card, small electricals, batteries, textiles and soft plastics) Provision of 2 HWRCs - with black bag sorting at the Atlantic Trading Estate HWRC required.
Organics	• ~~A weekly collection of green waste is operated from March to November each year collected in green hessian sacks~~. • A fortnightly green waste kerbside recycling service, by subscription is offered for this discretionary service. Green waste can be recycled at Recycling Centres foc. • Food Waste is collected source segregated on a weekly basis in 23 litre green caddies. The Authority supplies food liners to residents for this service.
Trade Waste	• Residual waste and recycling collections to all trade customers. • All customers have the options of a residual or recycling collection contract or both.
Disposal	• Residual Waste is treated at Viridor's Energy from Waste Facility at Trident Park in Cardiff. The contract is for a period of 25 years. Earliest contract expiry is 2041, with 5-year optional extensions.
Contractual Arrangements	• Food Waste is treated at the Welsh Water AD facility in Cardiff. The contract is for both food and green organics and is for a period of 15 years. Earliest Contract expiry is 2032 • Garden waste is treated at the above facility. • FCC are contracted to operate the 2 HWRCs at Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry and Llandow. FCC are the permit holders for both sites. • ~~Cowbridge Compost run the Waste Transfer Station for the processing of the kerbside sort materials. The contract expires in 2021.~~ The service area manages the rural recycling facility in-house which is located on Penllyn Estates. • Comingled material is sent ~~to Suez in Avonmouth~~ locally to Pritchards in Llantrisant. The contract is a rolling contract. ~~There is also a separate rolling contract with Cardiff Council for the use of a transfer station for the material.~~

Appendix 3: Integrated Communications Package – a practical approach

Detailed below is the approach we will take to communications which will underpin this strategy.

- There will be a **focus** on and prioritisation of those behaviours/actions which will make the greatest contribution to the recycling and waste management strategy's overarching objectives.

- There will be frequent and regular communications on the Strategy via the Council's Project Zero Challenge Plan communications campaign.

- **VoGC** communications and engagement **activity must align with and complement the wider waste strategy.** In particular this means linking with any future service changes as identified in the Action Plan in Appendix 1. The focus will be on delivering excellent service change communications, with additional communications, engagement and behaviour change activity scheduled in around this.

- Adopting a **project-focused** rather than 'always on' communications approach, with two types of communications project: those linked to service change (time-specific and delivered as an integral element of the wider service change), and those not linked to service change (non time-specific and delivered as discrete projects), all of which will have clear objectives and timelines. This means that at any one time there may be **one key communications focus**; it also means that there will be short periods between projects during which there will remain only a low level of communications outputs e.g. the Council's social media accounts.

- Developing communications activities and materials from scratch can be expensive and time-consuming. Where possible, the Council will **make use of existing materials/templates** etc, amending them as necessary to meet its own specific needs. This does not mean that 'one size fits all', only that where possible, the Council will continue to make use of existing materials/templates as a starting point, with additional bespoke materials and activities to be developed at a later stage as needed. This approach is **low-cost and low risk** compared to developing materials from scratch.

- Investigating opportunities to **benefit from the Welsh Government's Behaviour Change Programmes** and other national initiatives as they are developed. This is likely to provide multiple opportunities for participation and collaboration.

- Continuing to make the most of **existing networks and partnerships**.

- Using findings from planned trials **target specific audience segments** using the channels and messages that will best work for them. The focus will remain on targeting those segments which will have the **greatest impact** – which will also deliver the **best value for money.**

Appendix 4: Well Being Goals

How the Vale of Glamorgan's Strategic Recycling and Waste Objectives and Action Plan, 2020 – 2030, will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals.				
Well-being goals Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	**5 ways of working and how we will deliver**	**Vale of Glamorgan's Well Being Objectives 2020-2025**	**Vale of Glamorgan's Strategic Waste Objectives that deliver against well-being goals**	**How actions beneficially contribute to the national well-being goals**
A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	Long-term Involvement Integrated Prevention Collaboration	**To work with and for our communities** **To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment**	**Strong Communities** **Ambitious Targets**	Services designed so that everyone can participate. Maximise benefits of emerging technologies to recycle more and introduce additional materials. Providing residents with ~~a new HWRC and re-use~~ facilities for the future to achieve 70% recycling rate by 2025. As new materials are included in the recycling services Vale of Glamorgan will first seek reprocessing outlets in Wales and the UK.

A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).	Integration and Collaboration Involvement	**To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth** **To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment**	**Strong Communities** **Engage and Communicate**	Services that are accessible to all residents, local businesses and visitors. Improvements to HWRC network will allow alterations to be made in order to accommodate everyone. Engagement and communications that give everyone the opportunity to participate in recycling and waste minimisation schemes.
A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	Collaboration and Involvement	**To support people at home and in their community** **To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment**	**Engagement and Communicate** **Strong Communities**	Encourage residents and local businesses to participate in and use the services provided to them to ensure that quality of service is maintained at all times Working with residents and local stakeholders for an inclusive and community focused waste management and recycling service. Encourage community resilience

				and enable individuals to help others.
A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	Integration and Involvement Prevention Long term	**To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment** **To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth** **To work with and for our communities**	**Engage and Communicate** **Strong Communities**	Waste Wardens and Community Recycling Champions will work with schools so our children understand how they can make a difference from an early age. Targeted education - encouraging people to do the right thing by appealing to their sense of belonging. Focusing messages with emphasis on the positive and appealing to residents' sense of identity and community. Make its services accessible to all new residents, to ensure they have both the information and equipment to participate.
A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and	Long-term prevention	**To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment**	**Strong Communities** **Ambitious Targets**	An inclusive strategy that is aligned to the waste hierarchy and supports our Corporate plan for **a Brighter Future**

ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).				
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Prevention and Long-term	**To work with and for our communities** **To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment**	**Strong Communities** **Ambitious Targets**	A strategy that is aligned to the waste hierarchy through providing opportunities to recycle what is produced and reducing the amount of waste disposed and reducing our carbon footprint.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	Involvement and Collaboration	**To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth** **To work with and for our communities**	**Engagement and Communicate**	Engagement - all communications with our community will be provided in English and Welsh.

The Five Ways of Working

Long-term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

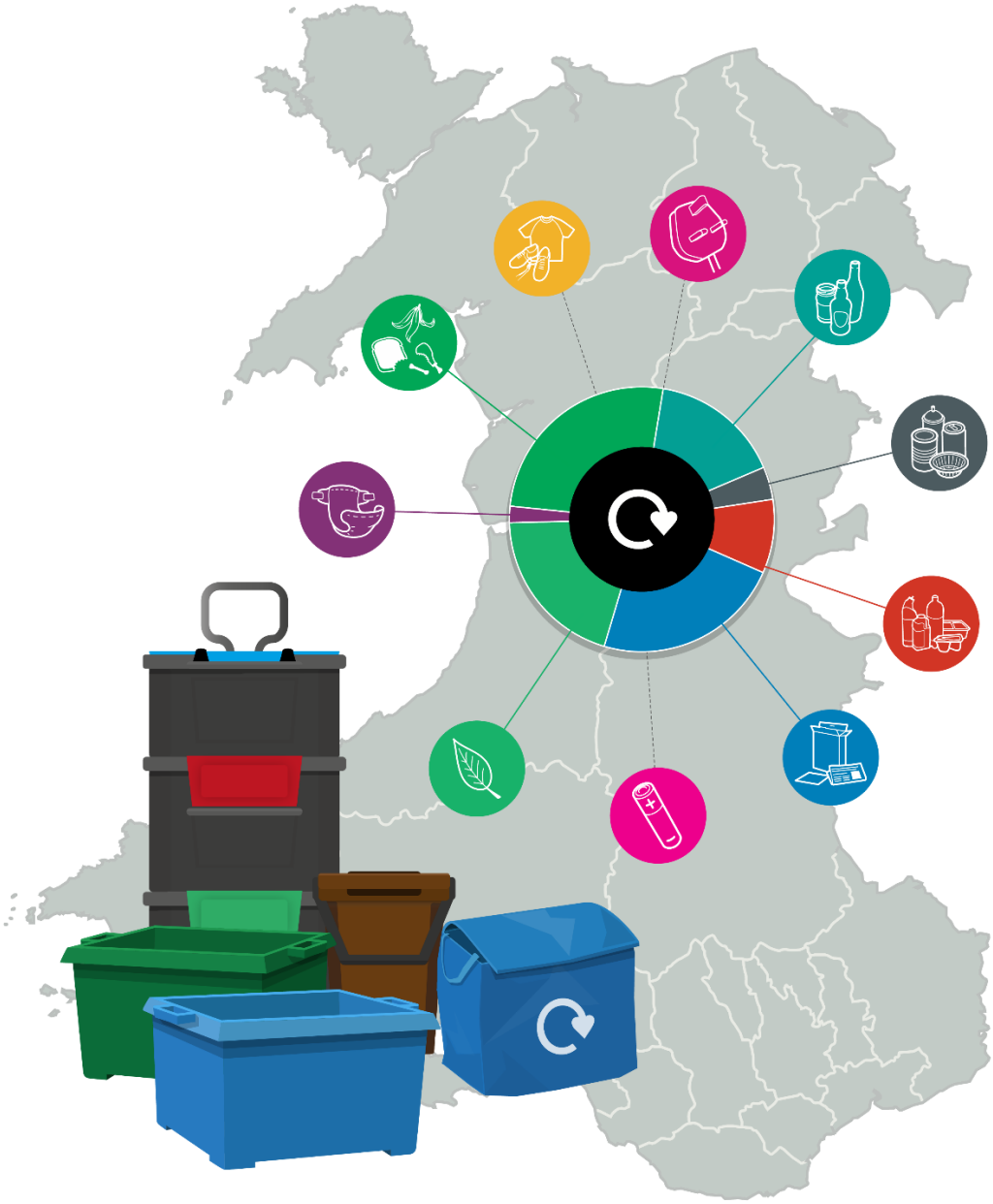
Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

recycle

Appendix B

WELSH GOVERNMENT COLLECTIONS BLUEPRINT 2025



Contents

Contents 2
1 Introduction 4
1.1 Aims 6
1.2 *Collections Blueprint Summary* 8
1.3 The Welsh journey 12
1.4 Recycling & Waste collections in Wales 13
2 Waste Prevention, Reuse and Repair 15
3 Kerbside Collections from Domestic Properties 16
3.1 Dry recycling and food waste 16
3.1.1 Materials collected 16
3.1.2 Containers 17
3.1.3 Vehicles 19
3.2 Residual waste 20
3.2.1 Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs) 22
3.3 Green waste 22
3.4 Bulky waste 22
3.5 Flats and houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) 23
3.6 Litter and street cleansing 24
4 Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) 25
4.1 Prioritising reuse, repair and recycling 25
4.2 Location 25
4.3 Materials collected 26
4.4 Performance and policies 26
4.5 Bring sites and banks 27
5 Non-domestic waste collections 28
5.1 Non-household waste at RRCs 28
6 Equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and poverty inequality 28
7 Communications 32
7.1 Communicating performance to residents 32
8 Resource Management after Collection 33
8.1 Separation of materials 33

8.2 Materials marketing 33
8.3 End destinations and performance information 34
9 Maintaining a Recycling and Waste Service 34
9.1 Operational policies and processes 34
9.2 Crew training and engagement 35
9.3 Resourcing 35
9.4 Health and safety 36
9.5 Depots and waste transfer stations 36
9.6 Monitoring the service 37
Annex 1 - Glossary 38
Annex 2 – Sub-fractions that comprise each waste stream 42
Annex 3 – References and List of Evidence 45

1 Introduction

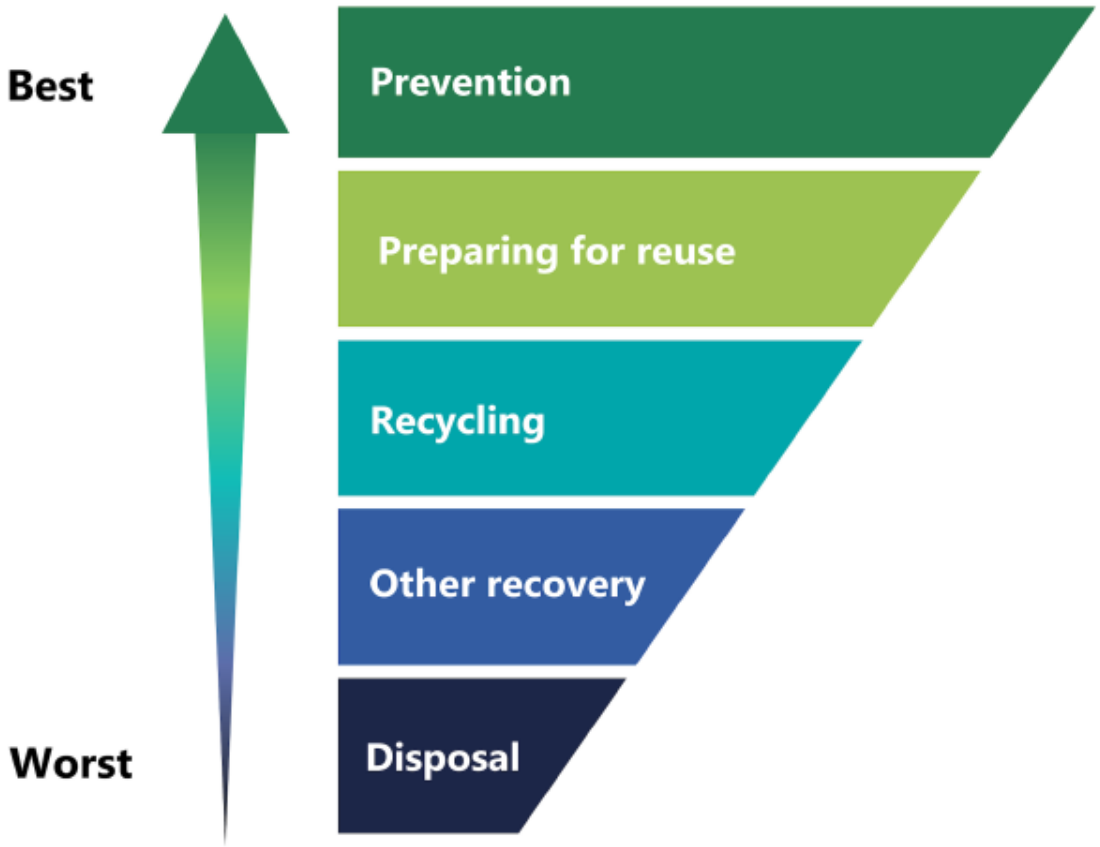
Welsh Government's *Collections Blueprint* outlines the recommended approach to collecting resources for preparing for reuse, recycling and composting (including Anaerobic Digestion) and how to manage any waste that is left over, to provide the best overall sustainable outcomes in accordance with the requirements of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*[i]. The *Collections Blueprint* applies to all resources and wastes collected by or on behalf of local authorities.

Welsh Government published the original *Collections Blueprint* as part of the Municipal Sector Plan in March 2011[ii]. This *Collections Blueprint 2025* has been updated to reflect current practice and the change in approaches to collection and sorting since 2011, as well as account for evidence of technical developments.
If everyone on the planet had the same pattern of resource consumption and waste production as the average person in Wales in 2010, there would be a requirement for three planets' worth of resources. Since then, Wales has made progress on waste prevention, sustainable consumption, production and the waste management targets outlined in *Towards Zero Waste*[iii]. In 2023 the ecological footprint of waste in Wales was reduced to the equivalent of just over two planets[iv]. It is the policy of Welsh Ministers to move Wales to a circular economy, a position where it consumes resources and manages wastes in a way consistent with 'one planet living'. To realise this means that efforts to achieve resource efficiency and minimise waste need to be as close to optimal as practicable.

The statutory Waste Hierarchy prioritises waste prevention and management options according to what is best for the environment. The Waste Hierarchy is a core principle of waste management in Wales and is set out in Regulation 12 of the *Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011* (as amended 2020)[v]. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for reuse, then recycling, then other recovery (e.g. as energy and heat), and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

The definitions of prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, recovery, and disposal can be found in Welsh Government's statutory guidance on the Waste Hierarchy[vi]. The Waste Hierarchy is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: The Waste Hierarchy



The move to a circular economy through the optimal management of resources must be achieved within wider economic, financial, social, and environmental contexts. There are considerable economic and social gains to be achieved through managing resources efficiently including funding the development of an economy that prioritises waste prevention, reuse and recycling. These gains however need to be achieved against a background of reduced funding for local authorities and the wider public sector.

In 2021 Welsh Government introduced a strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality: *Beyond Recycling*[vii]. A circular economy keeps resources and materials in use for as long as possible and avoids all waste. This will mean continuing to move away from a linear economy which assumes a constant supply of natural resources, the production of goods and services, and the disposal of post-consumer waste. Moving to a circular economy is essential to reduce our carbon emissions and our over-exploitation of natural resources thereby helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity. Crucially it can also improve economic and social outcomes.

Welsh Government takes an evidence-based approach to policy development, consistent with its promotion of the principles of sustainable development. A list of references from this document and a bibliography including the key evidence upon which Welsh Government has based its approach to resource and waste collections and the rationale of its approach is found in Annex 3 – References and List of Evidence.

1.1 Aims

The *Collections Blueprint* aims to promote the collection of materials in ways that:

- support the move to a circular economy and living within our planet's limits;
- ensure that the local authority recycling and waste service makes its full contribution towards net zero[viii], not just for the waste sector's emissions, but crucially also those in other sectors, especially industry and business, and the public sector;
- promote the local circular economy to help improve economic resilience, enhance economic, social and employment opportunities, and better environmental outcomes;
- improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local authority service delivery, so that as well as delivering environmental and economic benefits, the municipal resource management is financially sustainable.

The overall approach recommended by Welsh Government is for all aspects of collection (household recycling and waste collections, reuse and recycling centres, bring sites, bulky collections, non-household recycling and waste collections, and litter collections) to be managed in an integrated way to deliver high quality resource and management services at the lowest practicable unit costs.

The *Collections Blueprint* will continue to be updated to take account of developments in technologies and legislation and is intended to help Welsh local authorities deliver services that combine financial affordability with the best environmental, economic and social outcomes.

If we are to progress towards a truly circular economy such change will need to be continuous and we should never really find ourselves in a position without a new suite of changes on the horizon. At the time of publication there are a number of important policy changes in the pipeline including the need to deliver net zero for the waste and other sectors, the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, the Deposit Return Scheme and proposals to extend the Emissions Trading Scheme to cover the incineration of waste. As and when these policies come into effect they will cause further changes to the system outlined in the *Collections Blueprint* 2025.

It is not an instruction manual; it is intended to help Welsh local authorities deliver services that combine financial affordability with the best environmental and social outcomes.

Whilst the *Collections Blueprint* is advisory rather than a legislative requirement it is intended to set out what, in our collective experience across Wales, the best practice is in terms of delivering against Welsh Government's policy objectives for municipal recycling and waste collections.

1.2 *Collections Blueprint Summary*

The following table sets out the recommended waste prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling and waste service profile for local authorities in Wales – this table is only a summary and each section is covered in more detail in the main body of the document.

Table 1: Collections Blueprint Summary

Aspect	Minimum service standard
Waste prevention, reuse and repair	• Local authorities should promote waste prevention to residents through the provision of information on local initiatives, national guidance, and events. • Reuse shops and options for repair should be signposted by the local authority. • Services should have a repair, reuse and recycling focus.
Dry recycling	• Separate presentation at the kerbside under a 'kerbside sort' system. Materials to be collected include paper and cardboard; plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays; metal tins, cans, aerosols, and foil; cartons and other paper-based composite products; and glass jars and bottles. • There should be a weekly kerbside collection of dry recyclables. • Check quality of dry recyclate while loading onto vehicles, ensuring lowest possible contamination through immediate rejection of non-compliant materials and immediate feedback to residents. • Three or more, preferably reusable, dry recycling containers provided per household to keep materials segregated. • Ensure each household gets enough capacity for each stream. • Consider equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) to ensure the service meets the needs of all communities and residents.
Food waste	• Food waste prevention activities should be included in regular communications. • Weekly collection of separate food waste. • Internal kitchen caddies and lockable kerbside collection containers should be provided. • Food waste liners provided to residents for free.

Aspect	Minimum service standard
Collection vehicles	• Focus on most carbon efficient way to collect and achieve outcomes (high-quality recyclate achieved through checking/rejecting/sorting material at kerbside rather than by set vehicle type). • Single pass vehicles recommended way to achieve this for dry recycling and food waste. • Local authorities' procurement and fleet replacement should be in line with the commitment for the public sector to be Net Zero by 2030[ix], with the default being Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) for new vehicles.
Residual waste	• With increased recycling and less material going into disposal, significantly less residual capacity is needed. • Collection once every 3 to 4 weeks is sufficient and more frequent collection should be avoided so that it does not undermine the effectiveness of the recycling service provided. • Residual waste capacity equivalent to 60L, or less, per week is sufficient for the standard service. • Consider onboard weighing for data collection for residual collections. • Consider enforcement approach including student landlord duties. • Residual waste policies should be actively enforced. • Ensure that there are clear policies in place for households that require additional capacity.
AHPs	• Should signpost to reusable nappy options and nappy libraries and consider supporting these activities. • Provision of separate AHP collection should be provided.
Garden waste	• Promotion of, and support for, home composting/treatment for garden waste. • Charging for green waste collection can be applied to encourage home composting (as allowed under the Controlled Waste Regulations (2012)[x]). • Collections should be regular, including reduced winter frequency where appropriate.
Bulky collections	• Main priority should be to manage bulky waste for reuse and recycling with disposal a last resort in accordance with the waste hierarchy. • There should be no direct delivery of bulky collections to disposal facilities.

Aspect	Minimum service standard
	• Consider equality for the needs of residents in low-income households and those with no access to vehicles. Reuse partnerships with appropriate organisations should be considered.
Flats	• Service for properties with communal collections should be as similar to the main kerbside service as feasible. • The aim should be for collection of the full range of kerbside materials. • Weekly collection frequency for recycling and food waste. • Residual capacity limited in line with the kerbside service. • Landlords' duties need to be considered in the flats service, including the provision of well-maintained and secure bin stores.
Reuse and recycling centres (RRCs)	• Achieve a level of at least 85% recycling and reuse at all Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs). • Include appropriate policies to control and minimise unsorted residual waste accepted on site. • Make it easier for all residents to access facilities to cut down travel CO_2 emissions and encourage more recycling. Aim to share with neighbouring authorities where appropriate. • As a minimum, sites should accept and have facilities to receive and store separately: glass, metals, paper, cardboard, wood, green/garden waste, aggregate, soils, plastic packaging, hard plastic, textiles, mattresses, carpets, mineral oil, vegetable oil, and items that can be reused. • Provision of at least one RRC that accepts hazardous wastes e.g. WEEE, fluorescent light bulbs/tubes, paints/ solvents/ other hazardous household waste, bonded asbestos. • Consider EDI in terms of accessibility, car ownership & van bans. • Consider reuse shops or drop off points at RRCs and in town centres as part of a wider reuse network.
Non-domestic waste	• Trade waste services must be provided in line with Workplace Recycling Regulations[xi]. • Acceptance of certain trade recycling materials at RRCs can be considered, ensuring the option is fully costed. (This does not replace the duty to collect under the Workplace Recycling Regulations.)

Aspect	Minimum service standard
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)	• Consideration must be given to how the services affect people with protected characteristics and ensure no group is unfairly disadvantaged or excluded from accessing the service. • Extra capacity and assisted collections should be provided where appropriate and be reviewed periodically
Communications	• Communications to residents should be regular. • A dedicated communication resource with an annual budget should be established. • Education opportunities via schools and colleges should be exploited where possible. • National campaign assets should be used where appropriate to ensure information reinforces the standardised messaging throughout the whole of Wales. • Feedback on performance should be provided to residents.
Managing and maintaining a service	• Service needs to be adequately managed and monitored. • Appropriate policies should be in place, and these should be actively enforced. • Processes and procedures should be in place to support the safe and effective delivery of the service. • Vehicles and equipment must be well maintained and regularly checked with records kept. • Vehicles must be served by appropriately designed and operated depots, to carry out a minimum of post collection sorting and to prepare materials for sale and onward transport to reprocessors. • Performance of the service should be monitored. • Plans should be in place for the decarbonisation of the service in line with the commitment to a Net Zero Public Sector by 2030.

1.3 The Welsh journey

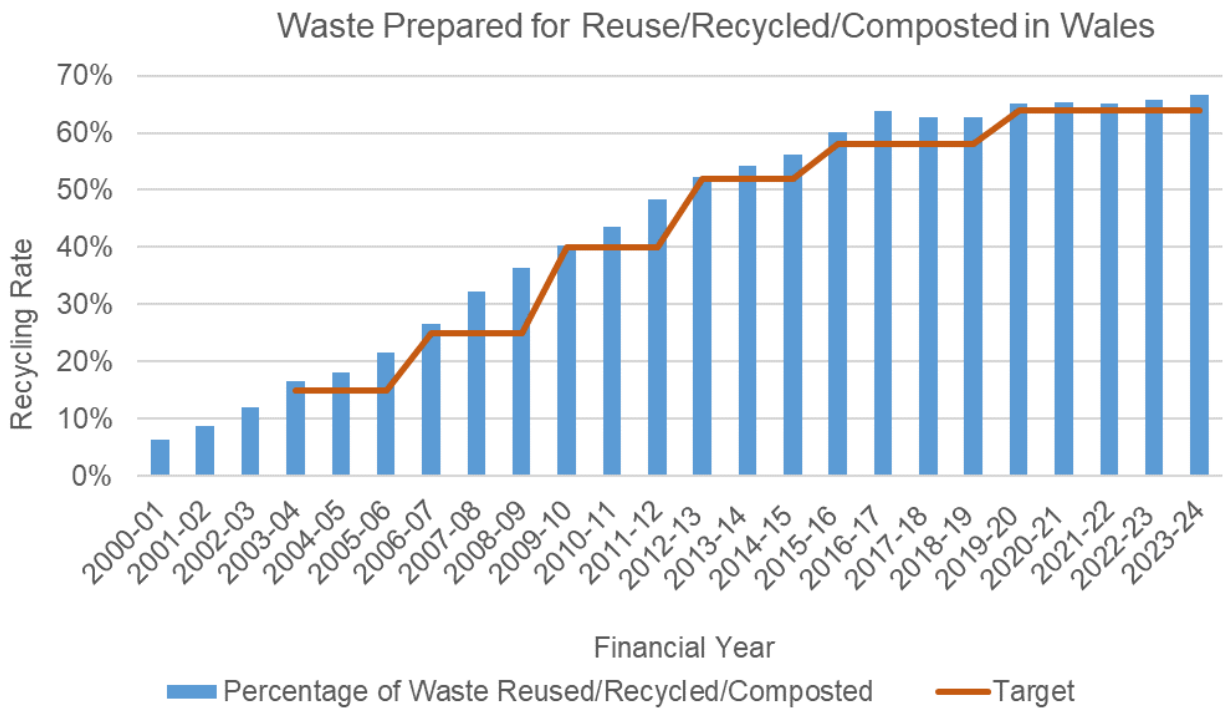
In the early 2000s the amount of household waste collected by local authorities in Wales was steadily increasing. The amount stabilised in the mid-2000s and generally decreased thereafter. In 2023-24 Welsh local authorities collected 1.4M tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste, down from a peak of 1.8M tonnes in 2004-05.

The data now shows that an increasing proportion of waste managed by local authorities in Wales is being sent for preparing for reuse, recycling or composting. Prior to devolution in 1999, Wales was one of the world's worst recyclers, recycling around 5% of municipal waste. This has risen to a rate of 66.6% in 2023-2024, with Welsh Government having set statutory targets for local authorities to recycle a minimum of 64% of waste by 2019-20, and 70% of waste by 2024-25.

When it comes to recycling performance, Wales is first in the UK, and now second in the world, behind only Austria[xii].

Figure 2 below shows the increasing Welsh National municipal waste recycling rate alongside the statutory targets between 2000 and 2024.

Figure 2: Local Authority collected municipal Waste Prepared for Reuse/Recycled/Composted in Wales[1] (2000-2024)



[1] From 1 April 2012, there were changes in definitions relating to local authority municipal waste generated and the method of calculating the percentage prepared for reuse, recycling or composting in Wales. The majority of information prior to 2012-13 relates to waste that was reported as collected for preparation for reuse, recycling & composting. Whereas from 2012-13 it relates to waste that was reported as sent for preparation for reuse, recycling & composting.

1.4 Recycling & Waste collections in Wales

Since the publication of the *Collections Blueprint* in March 2011, most local authorities in Wales have adopted the approach.

As of mid-2024, all 22 Welsh local authorities:

- collect a core set of dry recycling materials from residents at the kerbside;
- provide separate food waste collections for their residents, covering 99.8% of households in Wales;
- provide free food waste liners to their residents;
- offer opportunities for residents to deposit reusable items at least at one of their RRCs;
- have a least one RRC accepting a range of hazardous household wastes.

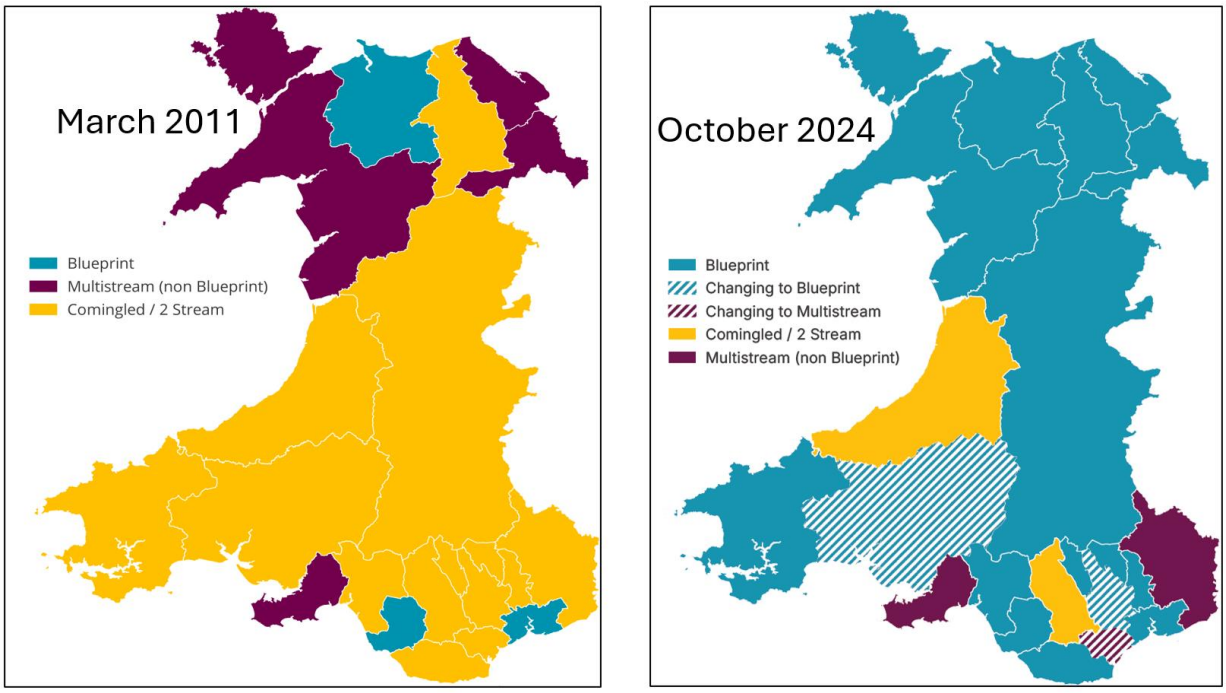
As of mid-2024, of the 22 Welsh local authorities:

- 15 deliver a single pass multi-stream kerbside collection in line with the *Collections Blueprint*;
- 2 are in the process of changing to a single pass multi-stream kerbside collection in line with the *Collections Blueprint*;
- 2 deliver a multi-stream service that does not include a single pass[2];
- 1 is in the process of changing from co-mingled to multi-stream;
- 2 operate a co-mingled service.

The scale of the change between 2010 and 2024 is shown in Figure 3.

[2] Materials are collected separately using multiple vehicles, rather than one vehicle in a single trip.

Figure 3: Kerbside Collection Method for Household Recycling in Wales per Local Authority – 2010/11 & 2023/24 Financial Years



Source: WRAP Cymru

The increasing consistency of approach to collections across Wales brings with it benefits, including the sharing of best practice, opportunities for joint procurement and shared acquisition of assets, the joint delivery of services across existing local authority boundaries and ability to promote consistent nationwide messages. This is further enhanced by the alignment with the regulations now in place for Workplace Recycling in Wales, which has been informed by the Blueprint approach.

The following sections outline Welsh Government's recommended approach to the collection of resources and wastes – the *Collections Blueprint*.

2 Waste Prevention, Reuse and Repair

A service should include the provision of practical measures to promote waste prevention, including reuse and repair, to complement the recycling and waste collection service.

Waste prevention activities are complementary to the collection service and help further reduce local authority collection costs, as well as delivering key environmental and social benefits. They can also help citizens save money.

Building on Wales' success in mainstreaming recycling, to move further up the statutory waste hierarchy and deliver in line with Welsh Government's *Beyond Recycling* strategy, consideration must also be given to the infrastructure and support available for repair and reuse.

The minimum standard for Welsh local authorities to encourage waste prevention, reuse and repair is:

- clear information should be included on local authority websites of steps that can be taken to reduce waste;
- local authorities should promote waste prevention to residents through the provision of information on local initiatives, national guidance, and through events;
- all local authority areas should have a network of reuse points to enable citizens to donate items for reuse or repair, taking accessibility into consideration;
- local authorities should signpost to repair and reuse organisations and activities in their area;
- at least one reuse and repair hub at an RRC or in a town centre.

Encouraging waste prevention, reuse and repair can be delivered in the following ways:

- the delivery of a reuse network which can include drop off points or shops at RRCs, reuse and repair shops in town centres and/or partnerships with third sector organisations to make the service more accessible;
- bulky waste collection services should be designed and managed as far as possible to ensure items collected are reused or repaired;
- examples of promoting waste prevention include waste prevention campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste which aim to reduce food waste;
- providing reusable nappy vouchers or nappy libraries can help reduce the use of single-use nappies. Reusable incontinence pads and wet wipes are also available;
- support for period dignity and the promotion of reusable period products;

- home composting of garden waste can be promoted through the sale of subsidised home composting bins;
- community paint reuse points can be provided at RRCs;
- local authorities can provide support for community reuse activities e.g. repair cafes, libraries of things, remanufacturing and remaker spaces, scrapstores, charity retail, car boot sales, nearly new children's clothing sales, etc. on local authority land;
- local communities can be supported to set up community sell, swap and share groups on social media – potentially via town and community councils or schools which can be important in both saving households money and improving access to activities for those from deprived communities e.g. through uniform swaps, bike exchange projects, pop-up events, etc.;
- promotion of zero waste refill stores to reduce use of plastic packaging and encourage use of refillable containers for food/toiletries shopping;
- water refill points can be encouraged and signposted to help reduce the use of single-use bottles. This should include at appropriate locations on the local authority's own estate.

3 Kerbside Collections from Domestic Properties

3.1 Dry recycling and food waste

3.1.1 Materials collected

The recyclable materials recommended to be collected in separate streams include, as a minimum:

- food wastes;
- paper & card (either combined or separate);
- glass bottles and jars;
- metal tins and cans, aerosols and foil; plastic bottles pots, tubs and trays; and cartons and similar.

The following additional materials can also be included if appropriate containment is available to keep them dry and preserve their quality, and appropriate reprocessors can be found:

- textiles;
- small waste electrical and electronic equipment (sWEEE) including vapes;
- batteries;

Textiles and sWEEE collections should prioritise preparation for reuse over recycling wherever possible to maximise benefits in line with the waste hierarchy.

Collecting batteries, sWEEE and vapes separately could help reduce the risk of fires when items containing lithium-ion batteries are placed in residual waste, or in the wrong recycling stream.

The planned requirement under the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) to collect flexible plastic films from the kerbside from 2027 onwards should also be taken into consideration.

A kerbside sort approach enables collectors to reject incorrect items at the kerb, and feed back to residents on which items should be placed out for collection and which items are contamination, encouraging high quality recycling. A consistent approach to collections in Wales also reduces potential resident confusion and kerbside sort produces reliable high-quality feedstock for Welsh reprocessors.

Further details on which types of material (sub-fractions) should be included within each recyclable waste stream are found in Annex 2 – Sub-fractions that comprise each waste stream.

3.1.2 Containers

There is no minimum or recommended capacity for dry recycling provision in Wales. Local authorities should ensure sufficient capacity is available for households to contain all the recyclable items they produce. Local authorities in Wales typically provide their residents with 150L-250L of dry recycling capacity each week, as well as 23L of capacity for weekly food waste.

It is for local authorities to determine the most suitable containers for properties in their areas. It is possible that a mix of containers will be used in different areas of the same local authority, depending upon housing types.

A choice of containers is available for kerbside sort recycling services, including boxes, stackable boxes, reusable hessian sacks and single use plastic sacks. Each has advantages and disadvantages but maintaining material quality is paramount. For example, containers used for paper and card need to protect the materials from the weather. Lids or nets are often used to ensure recycling material remains in the containers and avoid contributing to litter, particularly in areas prone to windy conditions such as coastal areas. Some local authorities use weighted reusable bags for materials for the latter reason.

The use of single use plastic bags to contain dry recycling should however be avoided where possible, in line with Welsh Government's commitment[xiii] to phase out unnecessary single-use plastic items in Wales as a key climate action.

Procurement of containers should consider the Beyond Recycling commitments to making the service as resource efficient as possible and its role in material demand. They should be made from recycled material or at least have a high recycled content. The NPS Waste Bags, Recycling Products & Aprons Framework[xiv] is recommended. This Framework offers customers a quick, simple and competitive route to a wide range of waste collection products and aprons. The Framework offers access to pre-approved firms that have been rigorously assessed on the quality of their products, and the service they provide.

There have been changes in good practice since 2011. Local authorities undertake less sorting of different waste material sub-fractions at the kerbside. This has developed through experience and the operation of collections is now more streamlined and efficient. Very few authorities hand sort mixed boxed dry recyclate at the kerbside. Some materials can be collected together if separation can be achieved effectively and efficiently with no loss of quality. For example, most local authorities now collect rigid plastic packaging and metals together. Metal packaging, rigid plastic packaging and cartons can be co-collected and separated post-collection in a sorting station. However, it is important that the loading of the different dry recyclate material onto vehicles ensures the lowest possible contamination through immediate rejection of non-compliant materials and immediate feedback to residents.

The *Collections Blueprint* previously recommended that dry recycling should be collected using two or more boxes. With most Welsh local authorities now providing at least three different containers to each household, this recommendation is being updated to three or more containers to facilitate the collection of the following material streams separately: paper and card, glass, and mixed plastic/metal. These materials align with the separation prescribed within regulations that apply to non-domestic properties in Wales, as discussed in Section 5.

Furthermore, if additional materials are also collected, additional containers such as reusable battery bags may also be provided. This approach ensures materials are kept separate and clean to deliver both high quality and higher income from the materials collected.

Food waste should be collected separately and weekly, and not mixed with green waste. It is recommended that local authorities provide kitchen caddies to residents for storing food waste indoors and a larger caddie should be used to store food waste at the kerbside before collection. Food waste should be sent to anaerobic digestion (AD) to generate renewable energy in the form of biomethane. Where the outputs meet a relevant end of waste framework, including the supporting certifications and market use, then the process can produce an organic fertiliser as well as biomethane.

Local authorities should provide free kitchen caddy liners to residents. Plastic liners can only be considered for AD processes that have agreed to their inclusion and can ensure that the digestate produced by the AD process meets the appropriate standard (BSI PAS 110).

Food waste collection services should not target materials such as kitchen roll, paper napkins, or commercially compostable product packaging unless the operator of the anaerobic digestion facility is able to accept it. Residents who do home composting can put kitchen roll and paper napkins into their home composting bin.

3.1.3 Vehicles

The weekly collection of food waste and dry recyclables using a kerbside sort approach with a single pass resource recovery vehicle (RRV) is recommended.

Welsh local authorities' focus should be on collecting materials in the most carbon efficient way and on collecting high quality recyclate. Many Welsh local authorities collect food waste and dry recyclables at the same time using a single pass RRV. RRVs are relatively lightweight and fuel efficient and have lower CO_2 emissions than traditional refuse collection vehicles (RCVs).

RRVs are produced in different sizes and can be used in almost all situations. They also allow additional materials to be collected – for example textiles, small WEEE and batteries.

Kerbside sort vehicles such as RRVs can take longer to travel down streets and roads when they are collecting compared to vehicles such as RCVs collecting co-mingled materials. The effects of this can be mitigated through careful route planning and operational management[xv].

Following careful collection of materials, the RRVs must be served by appropriately designed and operated depots, to carry out any required post collection sorting and to prepare materials for sale and onward transport to reprocessors. Research has shown that as well as being of higher quality due to reduced contamination, materials collected via kerbside sort also tend to find markets closer to where they are collected than the same materials collected via co-mingling[xvi]. Furthermore, more materials collected via kerbside sort are destined for closed loop recycling than is the case with materials collected via co-mingling.

Other vehicle approaches which achieve *Collections Blueprint* outcomes and are demonstrably more carbon efficient can be considered.

Ultra-low emission versions of collection vehicles, including RRVs and RCVs, have become available over the last few years, further reducing emissions. Local authorities should have a plan for the transition of all their fleet in delivering against the 2030 net zero target. This in practice now means the default being Ultra-Low

Emission Vehicles (ULEV) for any new vehicles. Work to decarbonise the recycling and waste collection service, including through the roll out of ULEV is ongoing across Wales. The installation of effective renewable energy generation infrastructure at waste and recycling locations should also be considered.

3.2 Residual waste

With more and more material being collected from households as recycling, it means significantly less material needs to go into disposal, so consequently significantly less residual container capacity is needed. If residual capacity is maintained at a level greater than that which is required, it can lead to the unintended consequence of inhibiting the uptake of recycling services.

In 2011, the *Collections Blueprint*, therefore, set out that to increase the amount of material separated for recycling and to reduce emissions, residual waste container capacity or collection frequency should be reduced -this continues to be the case in the 2025 *Collections Blueprint*.

Reduced residual waste capacity can be achieved in three ways:

- Reduce the number of residual waste containers collected – principally refuse sacks;
- Reduce the size of residual waste containers used – principally wheeled bins;
- Reduce the frequency of collection of residual wastes.

Lessons learned from the introduction of restrictions to residual waste capacity or frequency highlight that it is better to do so alongside the implementation of a comprehensive recycling service rather than waiting until afterward. A change in residual collections should also be supported by clear communications highlighting the relationship to the recycling collections and accompanied by appropriate education and subsequent enforcement to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.

With increased recycling and less material going into disposal, significantly less residual capacity is needed. The majority of local authorities have already taken steps to restrict the amount of residual waste collected. As of mid-2024, most Welsh local authorities provide a 3-weekly or 4-weekly kerbside residual waste collection service to their residents. In addition, some authorities who have retained fortnightly collections have restricted the volume of residual waste collected by introducing smaller wheeled bins, or by limiting the number of sacks of waste that can be presented.

The use of either wheeled bins or sacks for the storage of residual wastes is a matter for determination by individual local authorities, according to their needs. There is some evidence suggesting that the use of sacks may restrict the weight of residual waste put out, and so increase the recycling rate, with the highest performing local authorities for food waste recycling all having sack collections for residual waste.

Whilst Welsh Government does not mandate frequencies of collection of residual waste, it strongly supports measures taken by local authorities to limit residual waste collections, whether by frequency or capacity given local authorities in Wales all have a comprehensive service of recycled material collection in place. More frequent residual waste collection should be avoided so that it does not undermine the effectiveness of the recycling service provided.

Due to the different approaches to reducing residual waste capacity it is simplest to compare the different services provided by considering the volume available to – residents for use each week - weekly capacity. The average weekly capacity provided for residual waste in Wales in 2024 varied across local authorities from 40L per week to 120L per week.

The recommended residual waste service, alongside a comprehensive and robust recycling service, is:

- collecting residual waste no more often than once every 3 to 4 weeks,
- providing residual waste capacity equivalent to 60L, or less, for the standard service.

Residual waste policies should be actively enforced. Consideration should be given to households with specific needs, as discussed in Section 6.

Research[xvii] examining residual waste collection frequency recommended that food waste and absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) should be collected separately, and that residual waste should be contained rather than loose when stored in a bin.

Local authorities should pro-actively discourage their residents from placing batteries or small WEEE containing lithium-ion batteries in the residual waste container because of the significant risk of fires.

3.2.1 Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHPs)

Waste prevention initiatives such as providing reusable nappy vouchers, or supporting nappy libraries, can help reduce the number of single-use nappies generated. Reusable incontinence pads are also available.

Separate AHP collections can help to alleviate perceived concerns regarding changes to the frequency of residual waste collection in line with the research referenced above. Along with the separate collection of food waste it not only helps to address the potential for odours from less frequently collected waste, but also brings the opportunity to potentially reclaim more material from residual waste for recycling. Providing AHP collections is also an important EDI consideration to ensure equality of service amongst protected characteristics groups including but not limited to maternity, age and disability.

It is advised that collections use purple (rather than tiger-stripe) 60 litre bags. With bags it is easy to see any contamination within the bags which is why the use of caddies alone is not recommended.

3.3 Green waste

It is recommended that local authorities promote and support home composting of green (garden) waste as this is the best environmental outcome and can help reduce the amount of waste presented by households for collection.

Collecting green waste for compliant centralised composting, where the outputs meet a relevant end of waste framework and appropriate certified standards, can produce a compost for use in certain markets and has significant benefits over disposing in the residual bin. This should not prevent or discourage home composting but provides a far better alternative to garden bonfires of green waste. In terms of the relative polluting impacts of green waste bonfires or green waste collections prior to composting, an RPS[xviii] study for Welsh Government concluded that collections were environmentally preferable.

Collections should be regular, but can include reduced winter frequency where appropriate. It is for each local authority to assess the costs and benefits of introducing charging for green waste collections. Charging is potentially a way of reducing the amount of material collected and encouraging residents to compost at home. However, there is evidence from some areas that charging has resulted in a reduction in the quantities of green waste collected for composting and an increase in the quantities of green waste in the residual waste stream.

3.4 Bulky waste

It is recommended that bulky waste collection services be run in a way that prioritises reuse, repair and recycling (in descending priority order of importance),

with disposal a last resort. Items collected through the bulky waste collection service should not be directly delivered to a disposal location.

Residents should be encouraged to ensure any reusable items intended for reuse are kept in a reusable state before collection.

Local authorities should consider EDI and consider the needs of residents in low-income households and those with no access to a vehicle.

Bulky waste collection services can either be run in house or in partnership with a local social enterprise, private or third sector organisation.

Consideration should be given to the latest regulator guidance covering the handling and treatment of waste which may contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs)[xix], currently this covers upholstered domestic seating.

3.5 Flats and houses of multiple occupation (HMOs)

Across Wales,12.5% of households were flats, maisonettes or apartments in 2021[xx]. These properties are more prevalent in urban areas and are not evenly distributed across Wales. In 2021, 26.5% of households in Cardiff and 16.6% of households in Newport were flats, maisonettes or apartments, while in Carmarthenshire these properties only accounted for 6.9% of households[xxi].

There can be challenges in providing recycling services to flats as different types of architecture can present barriers for recycling. Blocks of flats may also differ in demographic and management, requiring different approaches to recycling provision and communications. This in turn impacts equity of service, and the opportunity to reach high recycling performance.

Flats often receive a communal recycling and waste service, with shared containers rather than having their own individual ones for each household. Recycling performance from properties receiving a communal collection service tends to be lower than from households receiving a regular kerbside collections service[xxii]. Typically, residents in flats in Wales are able to recycle the main materials (paper, card, plastic, metal, glass, food) by placing them in shared bins, but the bulk collection vehicle does not have appropriate compartments to also collect additional materials such as sWEEE, batteries, textiles etc, which can be collected with a OnePass vehicle for households on a regular kerbside service. Because of this, typically those on a communal recycling service can recycle a smaller range of materials from home compared to those on a regular kerbside service.

To achieve success in increasing recycling in flats it is recommended that local authorities use a tailored and site-specific approach, usually determined via site-specific surveys and engagement with key stakeholders, such as caretakers and landlords.

Wherever feasible, buildings containing flats, and houses converted into flats, should receive the same kerbside collection service as other households.

Many of the principles of a kerbside collection service, where each individual household has their own set of recycling containers also apply to communal waste collections:

- separate dry recycling streams;
- high quality;
- separate food waste;
- weekly dry recycling and food waste collections.

The provision of clean, well-maintained bins and bin areas conveniently located with sufficient capacity and clearly displayed information is recommended for flats and is the responsibility of the landlord. With a full recycling service, less capacity is needed for residual waste, and it can be restricted either by capacity or frequency.

Appropriate containers such as reusable bags or quad bags, should be considered where communal collections are in place to help residents keep materials separate for recycling and hence have the greatest impact on recycling levels.

In new developments recycling and waste management must be considered from the start of the building design process – as required under the Building Regulations and Approved Document H – Drainage and Waste Disposal[xxiii]. Local authorities should ensure that planning guidance is in place which sets out standards for new developments to ensure residents have appropriate space to store recycling and waste containers.

3.6 Litter and street cleansing

It is a core Welsh Government principle that citizens are able to recycle consistently at work, rest and play – and that ought to include when they dispose of material used on-the-go. Whilst the challenges of contamination are acknowledged, good signage and layout of separate recycling litter bins (for i) paper/card, ii) metal, plastic, cartons and similar, and iii) glass) can make it easier for people to recycle properly on-the-go.

It is therefore recommended that local authorities:

- Provide separate recycling litter bins for the key materials where feasible, alongside a general litter bin.
- Provide good signage to help people understand what should and should not be placed in each bin.
- Where practicable, separate out recyclable wastes from street cleaning into the separate material streams.

4 Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs)

The provision of a network of facilities for the deposit of reusable, repairable and recyclable goods and materials as well as residual wastes is an essential part of the recycling and waste services provided by local authorities.

4.1 Prioritising reuse, repair and recycling

In line with Welsh Government's *Beyond Recycling* strategy and the Waste Hierarchy, RRCs should encourage and prioritise reuse and repair as much as possible. This could include a reuse/repair centre or a designated area in smaller sites for reusable and repairable items to be dropped off – for onward transfer to a site that has a reuse/repair centre. Where repair or reuse is not possible, as much of the material deposited should be recycled as is feasible.

- Any reusable items should be kept segregated for reuse.
- Any repairable items should be diverted towards repair, then reuse.
- Any items which cannot be reused or repaired should be recycled.
- Non-recyclable items should be sent for recovery.
- Only non-recoverable items should be sent for disposal.

Some ways of achieving this are listed below:

- Reuse shops to give items a second life;
- Reuse drop off areas to keep reusable items segregated for reuse;
- Support from RRC staff to help with suitability and advocate for reuse;
- Repair shops and cafes to extend the lifetime of items;
- Dismantling bulky items for recycling;
- Pre-sort policies for waste entering site.

Items particularly suited for reuse include furniture, textiles and clothing, homewares, bric-a-brac, electrical items, bicycles, tools, toys, books, CDs and DVDs, wood and paint.

Partnerships with third-sector organisations are a way to achieve increased reuse. The value of engaging with third-sector organisations stems from their ability to increase reuse of items deposited at RRCs, which in turn provides social and economic benefits by creating jobs, training opportunities, and volunteer placements. There are many excellent reuse organisations taking items off site for resale, as well as on site reuse shops managed by charities or furniture reuse organisations. However, these groups may need support to deliver the standard of service required by the local authority.[xxiv]

4.2 Location

The recommended approach is to maintain a network of RRCs that provides good access to residents across the county.

The level of RRC provision depends upon several factors that will be specific to each local authority.

Local authorities need to consider travel distances and times for residents in determining site provision. Additionally, consideration should be given to accessibility of RRC sites for households with no access to a vehicle, and whether hired vehicles are authorised on site. Local authorities should look at the opportunity for town centre sites which can support the drop-off of items for reuse, as well as wider benefits such as footfall into the town centre.

Where appropriate, Welsh Government encourages local authorities to share RRCs located close to a border with a neighbouring authority to provide choice and accessibility to as many citizens as possible.

4.3 Materials collected

A wide range of materials should be collected at RRCs.

This should include paper, card, glass, metals (ferrous and non-ferrous), rigid plastic packaging, non-packaging rigid plastics, flexible plastic film, green waste, textiles, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE, including vapes), rubble, ceramics, gypsum, plasterboard, wood, paint cans, polystyrene, cups/cartons, batteries, mineral oil, vegetable oil, gas canisters, fire extinguishers, fluorescent light tubes and bulky items such as mattresses, carpets and furniture.

All local authorities should provide facilities for the collection and safe storage, before treatment or disposal, of household hazardous wastes (HHW), including hazardous garden and household chemicals.

In line with the statutory waste hierarchy, reuse and repair should be prioritised over recycling wherever possible, and only non-recyclable materials should be sent for disposal as waste.

4.4 Performance and policies

Each RRC should aim to achieve at least 85% overall recycling and preparation for reuse and prioritise the collection and sale of clean materials and the safe disposal of non-recyclable materials.

RRCs have already become a key part of the resource collection network, providing key materials back into the economy, with steadily diminishing quantities of non-recyclable wastes being collected.

Local authorities should have appropriate RRC policies in place to support circular economy goals and to maximise diversion. Options include:

- Booking systems to help manage the flow of traffic coming into RRCs, better enabling site staff to use a ‘meet and greet’ approach to assist residents to use them effectively, as well as reducing queuing.

- Residual waste sorting and inspection - a policy of ensuring any recyclables are diverted from residual waste. This can be done by providing a specific area where residents place their residual waste for inspection and sorting. There should be appropriate information for residents about any policies regarding residual waste.

- Measures to control the misuse of these premises for depositing non-household wastes without charge. However, consideration should be given to any unintended consequences from such measures, e.g. ‘van-bans’ restricting the accessibility of the sites for households where a van is the only vehicle available to them.

- Allowing small businesses to deposit their separated recyclable waste streams at the RRCs. Where non-household wastes are collected at local authority RRCs, full cost recovery should apply and businesses should present wastes sorted into different materials rather than mixed. This does not replace the local authority’s duties under the Workplace Recycling laws.

- Charging for construction and demolition wastes from households. It is a matter for each local authority to decide whether to apply charges for certain types of construction and demolition wastes at RRCs.

RRCs are permitted sites so therefore checks must be made that conditions of permits are being adhered to at all times, especially when considering any changes to management practices at the site

4.5 Bring sites and banks

In Wales in 2022-2023, 71% of materials collected for recycling or composting from households were collected from the kerbside, 28% were collected through an RRC and less than 1% were collected through bring banks, consisting mainly of glass and textiles[xxv]. Bring site provision should therefore be regularly reviewed to ensure it complements the kerbside collection in place. For example, where the service is not available at the kerbside, textiles banks can be used to collect textiles for recycling and reuse. Many local authorities provide bring banks for textiles and dry recycling at their RRCs, as well as in other locations, which are discussed in the section above. While their role may no longer be as prominent, the strategic location of bring banks may also still be important in some remote areas.

5 Non-domestic waste collections

Local authorities have a duty to collect commercial wastes on request. Welsh Government introduced *Workplace Recycling Regulations* in 2024[xxvi] to improve the quality and quantity of waste recycled from workplaces. The collection of recycling and waste from non-domestic premises must comply with these regulations – guidance is available from Welsh Government[xxvii].

The following materials need to be presented separately for collection, and collected separately and not subsequently mixed in the following streams as a minimum:

- food (from premises producing 5kg or more of food waste a week);
- paper and card;
- glass;
- metal, plastic and cartons & similar;
- unsold textiles;
- unsold small waste electrical and electronic equipment (sWEEE).

There is also a ban on:

- sending food waste to a sewer (any amount);
- separately collected waste going to incineration and landfill;
- all wood waste going to landfill.

Meeting the requirements of the regulations and supporting businesses to fully recycle will support the local authorities in meeting their statutory recycling targets.

5.1 Non-household waste at RRCs

Local authorities should consider allowing small businesses to deposit their separated recyclable waste streams at the RRCs. Where trade wastes are collected at local authority RRCs, full cost recovery should apply and businesses should present wastes sorted into different materials rather than mixed. Local authorities will need to ensure adequate arrangements are in place to weigh the waste and produce Duty of Care documentation (and invoices for full cost recovery) for this commercial waste if these are not already in place.

This service must be in line with the *Workplace Recycling* legislation and providing access to RRCs does not replace the duty to collect under Section 45(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and collect separately under the *Workplace Recycling Regulations*.

6 Equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and poverty inequality

The *Equalities Act (2010)* includes a public sector duty that requires local authorities to consider how their polices, decisions, and services affect people with protected characteristics.

Each local authority will have its own unique demographic and considerations and must undertake its own equalities analysis and monitoring of its policies and services. Doing this will help ensure these essential services are inclusive, fair, and accessible to all residents, fostering a more equitable community. There should also be ongoing monitoring of equalities and the service e.g. service satisfaction and/or participation rates by protected characteristic groups. This will identify disparities and ensure service equity.

There are nine protected characteristics, the following table explores considerations and potential service outcomes for each.

Table 2: Protected Characteristics, Consideration and Service Outcomes

Characteristic	Considerations	Potential service outcomes
Age Includes people of all ages, covering issues such as age discrimination and ageism.	Babies and Children	• Schools provision • Nappies (see pregnancy and maternity) • Supporting childcare • Promoting/Supporting Real Nappies e.g. vouchers • AHP • Additional Capacity
	Younger People	• Flats / HMOs – equitable service • Student services
	Older people	• Information for carers • Assisted Collections (including promotion of service) • Extra Capacity • AHP • Bulky waste collections • RRC access • Healthcare/clinical waste • Care home provisions
Disability This encompasses a wide range of physical and mental impairments that have a substantial and long-term adverse effect on an individual's ability to perform normal day-to-day activities	Physical accessibility	• Assisted Collections (including promotion of service) • RRC accessibility and rules – vehicles, help on site etc. • Accessible reuse facilities • Bulky waste collections
	Information accessibility	• Easy read / large print / clear everyday language • Brail / digital /audio/pictorial?

Characteristic	Considerations	Potential service outcomes
	Medical treatment	• Extra capacity • AHP collections • Clinical/ healthcare waste • Collection and reuse of mobility equipment
Gender Reassignment applies to individuals who are undergoing, have undergone, or are proposing to undergo a process (or part of a process) of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.	Medical treatment	• Healthcare waste • Avoiding offensive messaging / images
Marriage and Civil Partnership covers people who are married or in a civil partnership	No specific considerations	
Pregnancy and Maternity protection against discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy, as well as for mothers during the period of maternity leave.	Medical consideration Babies and young children	• Extra Capacity • AHP collections • Clinical/ healthcare waste • Reuseable nappies • Support nappy libraries • Reuse for babies and children's items
Race includes colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origins	Recognising the multi-cultural communities Minority groups more likely to live in muti-generational households	• Multi Language / Pictorial messaging • Engagement with diverse communities • Extra capacity (large households)
Religion Encompasses any religion (including a lack of religion) and any religious or philosophical belief (including a lack of belief)	Recognising the multi-cultural communities	• Multi language / Pictorial messaging • Avoiding offence – collection timing • Extra capacity at holidays • Providing additional services – churches, mosques etc
Sex This relates to discrimination based on a	Females	• Period products - reuse

Characteristic	Considerations	Potential service outcomes
person's sex (male or female)		
Sexual Orientation This includes heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual orientations	No considerations for blueprint	• Avoiding offensive messaging / images

As a minimum, assisted collections should be available to those that require assistance, such as some elderly or disabled residents, and additional capacity should be considered for larger households or those that produce more waste to ensure their needs are met.

In addition, there are several actions that local authorities can take that, whilst not directly related to a protected characteristic, they can help ensure equity across the community, support social cohesion and help those experiencing poverty:

- Reuse shops;
- Repair cafes and businesses;
- Library of things and hire businesses;
- Bike exchange / bike repair;
- Apprenticeships.

Local authorities also have a statutory duty to assess the sufficiency of childcare and to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient childcare is available to meet the needs of families in their area.

This is now more important than ever as we continue with our Programme for Government[xxviii] commitments to ***fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work*** and ***deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two-year-olds.***

Childminders[3] play an important part in helping us meet these commitments, offering choice for parents while supporting and caring for children from domestic premises[4].As set out in the Independent Review Of Childminding the decline in the number of registered childminders is likely to have a significant impact on childcare availability and accessibility. Welsh Government are committed to taking forward the recommendations of the Review and it is therefore crucial that all parts of national

[3] A person acts as a child minder if the person looks after one or more children under the age of twelve on domestic premises for reward (section 19(2) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.
[4] Section 19(6) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 defines “domestic premises” as “any premises which are wholly or mainly used as a private dwelling”.

and local government work together to remove any barriers or concerns for childminders so that we can sustain and grow this vital part of the sector.

In support of this aim, we ask that all local authorities across Wales continue to take a pragmatic and considered approach, in terms of childminder waste collections, recognising that most childminders operate from premises that are first and foremost their home. In taking this approach, you are playing an important role in ensuring we mitigate any potential impact on provision and choice, increases in costs for parents and most importantly contribute to the sustainability and growth of childminders across Wales.

7 Communications

The service should be regularly and appropriately promoted to residents using clear and consistent communications about both the practicalities of using the service and the reasons to do so. A dedicated communication resource with an annual budget should be established. Education opportunities via schools, colleges and universities should be undertaken.

Consideration should be given to the accessibility of communications to all residents. Where appropriate, easy read, large print, braille, audio or digital versions should be made available. In some areas, communication materials in languages other than English and Welsh may be needed.

7.1 Communicating performance to residents

WRAP's annual recycling tracker[xxix] shows that Welsh citizens want feedback on their performance and how their recycling is managed. The *My Recycling Wales*[xxx] website provides public information on how much recycling each Welsh local authority collects, and the reported fate of the materials recycled. This approach helps ensure transparency and a more precise evaluation of the environmental and carbon impacts.

A kerbside sort approach enables collectors to feedback to residents on which items should be placed out for collection and which items are contamination, encouraging high quality recycling. Robust contamination procedures should be in place to ensure the feedback principle is retained.

Wider stakeholder communications should also be undertaken, for example to members, call centre staff, and wider local authority workforce. Publishing good news about increased performance and praise to residents is encouraged.

8 Resource Management after Collection

8.1 Separation of materials

Waste collection services should be run in a way that prioritises preparing for reuse, repair and recycling (in descending priority order of importance). Keeping materials separate during collection increases the opportunities for preparing for reuse and repair, and increases the amount and quality of recycling that can then be used by Welsh manufacturers. This reduces carbon emissions and helps create a greener Wales. Providing material of the right quality and in the right way to the reprocessing sector is an important part of transitioning to a circular economy.

The materials reprocessing sector (manufacturers who either produce secondary raw materials out of recyclate or who manufacture new products that incorporate recyclate) provides a key growth market for materials collected for recycling. If materials are not appropriate for local reprocessors to use, they will either not be recycled or will potentially be exported for potentially lower value recycling elsewhere. This loss of materials to the local economy fails to capture the full financial and economic value of the materials and results in missed opportunities to grow the green economy, create green jobs improve the resilience of local supply chains and drive local community benefit. Exporting low quality, contaminated recyclables abroad is prohibited and can lead to adverse environmental pollution impacts, especially in developing countries with less stringent environmental regulations.

Welsh Government has prioritised an approach predicated on understanding reprocessors' needs and trying to align local authority services so that they can provide high quality feedstock to local reprocessors in return for good incomes and the circular economy benefits to their communities and the wider Welsh economy.

The *National Local Authority Waste Composition in Wales 2022*[xxxi] quantified the difference in contamination levels between the three most common recycling collection systems in use in Wales. The analysis found that the proportion of contamination within separately collected material was 6.4%, while material collected through a twin stream service was 8.2% contamination, and 20.3% of material collected through a fully co-mingled service was contamination.

There are also significant overall carbon benefits delivered by kerbside sort collections compared to other kerbside recycling collections[xxxii].

8.2 Materials marketing

Welsh Government's aim in supporting the transition to the circular economy is not only in response to the environmental imperatives but also to retain materials in the Welsh and wider UK economy, thereby capturing greater economic added value from these materials and Wales' world class recycling rate. Welsh and UK

reprocessors are not only important customers of local authority collected recyclable materials, with the income from the sale of materials helping offset some of the costs of service provision, but through the provision of materials, the local authorities play a vital strategic role in moving to a circular economy and decarbonisation. In general, the higher the quality of material, the higher its financial value. Therefore, local authorities are urged to ensure they collect and provide high quality materials to market.

Local authorities can sometimes optimise the income from the sale of materials by presenting them together with those from one or more partner local authorities. Local authorities are recommended to explore the potential of different arrangements to optimise the benefits of marketing materials.

8.3 End destinations and performance information

The end destinations of recyclate collected in Wales are recorded and reported by local authorities to Natural Resources Wales via *WasteDataFlow*. Local authorities are required to report as much information as they reasonably can about where materials are sent for recycling. This approach helps ensure transparency and a more precise evaluation of the environmental and carbon impacts.

Local authorities should collect and market materials in ways that enable the benefits that accrue from the circular economy at a local and national level, prioritising where possible local end destinations of materials.

9 Maintaining a Recycling and Waste Service

An effective and efficient service requires continuous monitoring, maintenance and active management. This involves having in place appropriate:

- operational policies and processes including suitable enforcement;
- crew training and engagement;
- staff resourcing;
- health and safety systems/ management;
- depots and waste transfer stations;
- ongoing monitoring of the service;
- clear communications to residents and staff (as covered in section 7).

9.1 Operational policies and processes

A service should be supported by appropriate policies to maximise recycling and reuse, whilst minimising residual waste. These may include policies on preparing for reuse for wastes taken to RRCs and collected at the kerbside (especially bulky waste collections, but also including any kerbside collections of textiles and sWEEE),

residual waste, compulsory recycling, contamination, and education and enforcement.

Robust operational processes and procedures should be in place and be understood by relevant staff and operatives. These processes are likely to include collections processes such as assisted collections, missed collections procedure, container presentation, 'lock-out' for contamination of recycling material and site procedures such as traffic management.

Policies, processes, and procedures should be supported by establishing a clear structure and a culture of communication, responsibility and accountability.

A clear structure should include appropriate supervision to ensure the smooth running of the service. Ways this can be achieved include structured operational meetings, crew debriefs at the end of the shift, regular crew checks monitoring health and safety, compliance and cleanliness and addressing any crew concerns.

9.2 Crew training and engagement

Collection staff should be suitably trained and supervised to ensure that the service is operating effectively and that health and safety is maintained. Collection crews play a key role and this includes minimising contamination collected at the kerbside. Ensuring operatives reject non-target material ensures residents receive feedback as part of the education process which is essential. As well as the initial training, a programme of regular training and operational updates should be in place including regular opportunities for the crew to feedback on issues or concerns. Training topics are likely to include:

- health and safety – relating to specific incidents and updates to safe systems of work, risk assessments and/or route risk assessments;
- a schedule of regular toolbox talks covering industry guidance and updates;
- updates to processes and policies;
- refresher training on plant and machinery;
- working hours and expectations;
- general updates on the service and projects;
- training on handling difficult conversations and de-escalating conflict.

9.3 Resourcing

An efficient well managed service is adequately resourced and resilient. Resourcing considerations include:

- agency agreements to ensure the service can be adequately resourced when needed;
- actively managing any sickness absences;
- planning for Bank Holidays;

- health and safety – all accidents and incidents should be investigated to ensure lessons learned can be recorded and where appropriate, changes made;
- adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) provided to crews with a regular process for replacement and renewal of PPE in place;
- a phone/in-cab device should be issued to a vehicle/crew to maintain contact throughout the day;
- designed rounds to be achievable and efficient;
- vehicles and equipment should be fit for purpose and regularly checked, maintained and cleaned;
- driver and operatives to be trained in the use of vehicles and equipment;
- planning for climate change adaptation (for example the impact of higher temperatures, increased sea levels and extreme weather scenarios).

9.4 Health and safety

The waste industry has the second highest rate of fatal and non-fatal work-related injuries after agriculture and farming[xxxiii]. A safe working environment is essential to the running of an effective reuse, recycling and waste service. This can be attained by developing appropriate practices and procedures which should be recorded in a suite of documentation. These documents should be regularly reviewed as per industry guidance. Corporate health and safety departments should play an active role in supporting recycling and waste services in developing and overseeing these processes and documents, and ensuring they are understood and followed by all. These documents are likely to include:

- safe systems of work;
- route risk assessments;
- risk assessments for collections and Waste Transfer Stations (WTS);
- adequate welfare facilities;
- noise & Occupational Health assessments;
- manual handling;
- reversing procedure;
- handling and de-escalating conflict situations.

9.5 Depots and waste transfer stations

Once collected, materials for recycling need to be delivered to appropriately designed and operated facilities to carry out any required sorting and bulking of materials before sale and onward transport to reprocessors.

All sites must have appropriate waste permits in place for the operations undertaken at the site, including a Fire Prevention & Mitigation Plan (FPMP) which meets Natural Resources Wales (NRW) guidance[xxxiv]. The sites must be run by suitably qualified staff to ensure compliance with the waste permit conditions and comply with all

applicable regulatory requirements, for example, waste sampling and reporting requirements[xxxv].

Material transfer stations must have cleaning regimes in place to meet Health and Safety and to extend the life of expensive equipment. Safe systems of work must be in place and regularly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose and are being followed by staff.

New buildings should be designed to meet net zero requirements (including energy efficiency, renewable energy and consideration of embedded emissions), and existing buildings adapted in accordance with the net zero targets for 2030 set on public bodies in Wales. Where appropriate, buildings should provide charging points for ULEV fleets. Buildings and associated areas should support biodiversity in line with the duty under Section 6 of Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016[xxxvi], which requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. The consideration of biodiversity also includes the goods and materials procured given that the extraction of natural resources globally is the main root cause of the global biodiversity crisis. The move to a more circular economy is as crucial to action on biodiversity as it is to decarbonisation.

9.6 Monitoring the service

The service should be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure it is performing as expected and that any issues are identified and resolved as early as possible.

A variety of data sources are available, for example:

- round tonnages can identify areas producing more residual waste;
- in-cab technology can monitor participation and be used to log where materials are not collected due to contamination;
- routing software to optimise routes/collection rounds to make them more efficient and reduce fuel usage and vehicle CO_2 emissions;
- on-board weighing can be used to optimise the service and identify higher residual waste producers;
- monitoring material quality at the bulking location can identify rounds with higher proportions of contamination;
- monitoring crew performance and resident behaviours.

Annex 1 - Glossary

Absorbent hygiene products? (AHP) – Non-clinical/medical waste materials such as child and adult nappies, incontinence waste products such as liners and bed and chair absorbent pads.

Anaerobic digestion (AD) – A process of controlled decomposition of biodegradable materials under managed conditions where free oxygen is absent, at temperatures suitable for naturally occurring mesophilic or thermophilic anaerobe and facultative anaerobe bacteria species, which convert the inputs to a methane-rich biogas and whole digestate. Whole digestate can confer benefits to soils to which it is applied and the plants these soils support.

Beyond Recycling – Welsh Government's plan to make the circular economy in Wales a reality where we keep resources in use and avoid waste. It was published in March 2021.

Cartons – Fibre-based composite packaging, being packaging material which is made of paperboard or paper fibres, laminated with low density polyethylene or polypropylene plastic, and which may also have layers of other materials, to form a single unit that cannot be separated by hand, used as packaging for food products such as milk, milk alternatives, fruit juice, soup, chopped tomatoes and pulses.

Closed-loop recycling – A process where a waste material: (a) is recycled into a new product of similar functionality; (b) replaces the virgin use of the same material in a different new product; or (c) replaces a higher embedded carbon raw material, and where the new product can itself be used, discarded and captured, to be recycled again, continuously cycling the material resource though the supply chain.
Examples of high quality, closed-loop recycling include:

> (a) the use of recycled glass cullet in re-melt applications to create new glass products rather than for use as aggregate in construction;
>
> (b) the use of recycled plastic to produce new food and drinks containers, rather than the production of mixed plastic polymer construction products that cannot practically be recycled at end of life;
>
> (c) the use of recycled paper for the production of new paper products, rather than other uses such as animal bedding.

Container – Holds or stores waste within a physical barrier that prevents it from spilling or escaping. Waste containers are normally made out of plastic or metal. Containers include, for example, boxes (with or without a lid), wheeled bins, baskets or cages, plastic bags and skips

Co-mingled – Recyclate consisting of different types of recyclable materials that are mixed together or unsorted, such as paper, metal, plastic and glass.

Composting – An aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and increase the nutrient content of the soil.

Dry recycling – The recycling of dry materials, such as paper, card, cans, plastic bottles, mixed plastic and glass.

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) – Equipment that is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of such currents and fields and designed for use with a voltage rating not exceeding 1,000 volts for alternating current and 1,500 volts for direct current. When EEE becomes waste, it is referred to as 'WEEE', small waste EEE is 'sWEEE'.

Energy-from-waste (EfW) – An energy recovery process that generates renewable power in the form of electricity, heat or transport fuels from the controlled incineration of residual waste.

High quality recycling – Requires that throughout the recycling collection and processing chain, the distinct characteristics of the material (for example the polymer, or the glass, or the paper fibre or the metal) are preserved or recovered so as to maximise their potential to be reused in the circular economy in a way that also maximises carbon emission savings.

Houses in multiple occupation (HMO) – In most cases a HMO is a house or a flat in which two or more households live as their main or only residence and where some of these households share basic facilities, such as a kitchen, toilet or bathroom. Other types of HMOs include converted buildings that include non-self-contained flats; buildings that include self-contained flats and which meet certain tests; and other buildings where basic facilities are missing.

Household waste (HHW) – Materials collected directly from households (kerbside collections), taken to bring sites (including civic amenity sites) or collected by private and voluntary organisations not included elsewhere.

Incinerator bottom ash (IBA) – The ash that is left over at the bottom of an incinerator after waste is burnt.

Landfill sites – Any areas of land in which waste is deposited are termed landfill sites. They are often located in disused open-cast mines or quarries. In areas where these are limited or no ready-made voids exist, the practice of land raising is sometimes carried out; waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured.

Local authority municipal solid waste (MSW) – Household and non-household waste that is collected and disposed of by local authorities. It includes regular household collections, specific recycling collections, special collections of bulky items, waste received at civic amenity sites and waste collected from non-household sources (e.g. rubble, incinerator residues, plasterboard, and matter from beach cleansing). Local authority municipal waste excludes abandoned vehicles.

Non-domestic waste – See Section 75 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and applicable subordinate legislation, for example the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012.

Non-household municipal waste – All waste collected by a local authority or its contractors, other than wastes within Schedule 1 and 2 of the Controlled waste Regulations 1992. This includes any other wastes collected by an authority, such as municipal parks and gardens waste, industrial or commercial waste and waste resulting from the clearance of fly-tipped materials.

Open-loop recycling – Where a waste material either (a) replaces the virgin use of a different material in a different new product or (b) replaces the use of a lower embedded carbon material and/or where the new product cannot itself be recycled after use, thus losing the material from the supply chain. Open-loop recycling is often associated with a

degradation of the material being recycled. Open-loop recycling is also referred to as downcycling.

Organic Waste – Organic waste includes food, green (garden) and other compostable waste.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – Chemicals with toxic properties that remain in the environment for a very long time, accumulate in food chains, and can harm human health and the environment. If released, these pollutants can move across boundaries far from their source through air, water and migratory species - and they even accumulate in regions where they have never been used or produced. Some are becoming known as “forever chemicals”. With limited exceptions, POPs are generally no longer used in new products, but they can still be found in waste. If such waste (such as WEEE or textiles) is recycled, POPs may re-enter the economy when the resulting materials are used in new products.

Preparation (or preparing) for reuse – Local authority municipal waste is prepared for reuse for the purpose of the targets when:

> (a) a waste product or component of a waste product has undergone a checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operation; and
>
> (b) the waste product or component of a waste product can be reused for its original purpose.

Recycling – Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, whether for the original or other purposes. It does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are used as fuels or in backfilling operations.

Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV) – Refuse Collection Vehicles are designed to collect waste and transport it to a suitable facility. Bins are lifted to be emptied and the material is then compacted.

Reprocessor – Carries out the activity of recycling, which is converting a waste into a product, material or substance that is no longer classified as a waste.

Residual waste - Waste that is not prepared for reuse, recycling or composting.

Resource and Recovery Vehicle (RRV) – RRVs are specialist vehicles used to collect recyclable materials that facilitate efficient kerbside sort approaches. They have multiple compartments to enable dry recycling and food waste to be collected in a single pass and kept separate. They are relatively lightweight and fuel efficient and have lower CO_2 emissions than RCVs.

Reuse – Reuse is a form of waste prevention where a substance, product or material is used again before it becomes waste. Also see definition for ‘Preparation for re-use’ above for the reuse of material after it has become waste.

Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) – Local authorities are required to provide sites for the deposit of waste by householders, as established in the Environmental Protection Act, s.51 (1) b. RRCs play an important role in helping people manage the waste they produce in a convenient and sustainable way. These sites are also known as Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), Waste Recycling Centres (WRCs), Community Recycling Centre (CRC), Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) or Civic Amenity (CA) sites. They are often referred to as ‘tips’ by the public.

Reuse/recycling/composting rate (statutory target definition) – Percentage of local authority municipal waste that is recycled, prepared for reuse or composted, calculated at time of distribution to disposal or recycling/composting contractors. This is, therefore, based on the amount of waste sent for preparation for reuse, recycling or composting, rather than collected for the purpose of being prepared for reuse, recycled or composted.

Towards Zero Waste – Overarching waste strategy document for Wales. It sets out how Welsh Government will build on the successes achieved through Wise About Waste - The National Waste Strategy for Wales (2002). It sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management between now and 2050.

Treatment – Physical, thermal, chemical or biological processes, including sorting, which change the characteristics of the waste in order to reduce its volume or hazardous nature, facilitate its handling or enhance recovery.

Waste – Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.

Waste material – Defined broadly by the type of material it is composed of, for example glass, metal, plastic, paper and food waste. In some instances a waste material can be a type of product - electrical or electronic equipment (EEE) or textiles. Each of these materials has sub-fractions.

Waste stream – A category, or categories, of waste materials that are considered suitable for collection in a single container.

Waste sub-fraction – Refers to the different types of waste items that make up each individual waste stream. For example, plastic comprises of recyclable sub-fractions such as bottles, pots, tubs and trays composed of PET, HDPE or PP (see “Resin Identification Codes") and non-recyclable sub-fractions such as items composed of PVC or PS.

WasteDataFlow (WDF) – WasteDataFlow is the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government. In Wales municipal solid waste tonnages and destinations are recorded and reported by local authorities to Natural Resource Wales via WasteDataFlow.

Annex 2 – Sub-fractions that comprise each waste stream

The sub-fractions which can be included in each waste stream are listed in the table below.

Paper and Cardboard	
What should be placed in the container	**What should NOT be placed in the container (unless the waste collector specifically allows it to be included)**
• Paper (clean printed/unprinted) • Paperback books • Newspapers • Magazines • Catalogues • Envelopes • Telephone directories • Cardboard packaging • Egg boxes	• Shredded paper (this can be recycled separately) • Food/oil/grease/paint or otherwise contaminated paper or cardboard • Hardback books (donate for reuse if suitable) • Wallpaper • Gift wrapping paper • Tissues • Paper towels • Kitchen roll • Scratch cards • Till receipts Cartons and similar (The following should all be placed in the plastics, metals, and cartons container) • Plastic or metal laminated cardboard food and drink cartons • Rigid paper containers (e.g. crisp tubes) • Laminated paper cups

Plastic, Metal and Cartons	
What should be placed in the container	**What should NOT be placed in the container (unless the waste collector specifically allows it to be included)**
<u>Rigid plastic packaging – only the fractions listed below</u> • Clean plastic bottles and lids (e.g. milk, drink, sauce, detergent, shampoo, chemicals, oils etc) • Clean rigid plastic food containers (e.g. butter/margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, fruit trays & non-black food and meat trays) • Disposable plastic cups (made only of plastic) • Plastic lids from drinks cups <u>Metal packaging – only the fractions listed below</u> • Clean food and drinks cans (steel & aluminium) • Metal aerosol cans (steel & aluminium, empty, no paint or harmful chemicals) • Metal chocolate and biscuit tins • Clean aluminium foil (no food or chemical contamination) • Clean aluminium food trays • Metal jar lids • Metal bottle tops • Empty aluminium tubes (e.g. tomato puree tubes) <u>Cartons and other fibre-plastic composite packaging of a similar composition</u> • Cartons made out predominantly of fibre but including a metalised layer (commonly used for soft drinks and milk) and a plastic neck and cap. • Rigid paper containers (e.g. crisp tubes) • Paper cups with a plastic inner liner (not made out of biodegradable or compostable plastic)	<u>Plastic (a number of these items can be recycled separately)</u> • Black plastic food and meat trays • Plastic bags (including carrier bags, bread bags & frozen food bags, compost bags, fertiliser bags, feed bags) • Bulk bags for the delivery of sand, gravel, seed, feed etc. • Plastic film (including cling film, food tray film & pallet wrap, shrink wrap, silage wrap, crop cover) • Sweet and biscuit wrappers • Crisp packets / paper backed foil • Pouches • Sachets • Bubble wrap • Polystyrene • Rigid non packaging hard plastics (including toys, coat hangers, plant pots) • Compostable, biodegradable or oxy-degradable plastic packaging • Plastic coffee pods <u>Metal (a number of these items can be recycled separately)</u> • Paint cans (plastic or metal including aerosol spray paint cans) • Gas canisters (these should not be put in the general waste either as they will cause an explosion risk. They must be managed by an appropriately authorised contractor). • Metal scrap of any kind • Metal coffee pods <u>Other fibre-plastic composite packaging of a similar composition to cartons</u> • Paper cups with a compostable, biodegradable inner waterproof layer

Glass	
What should be placed in the container	**What should NOT be placed in the container (unless the waste collector specifically allows it to be included)**
• Clean glass jars (all colours) • Clean glass bottles (all colours)	• Metal jar lids (place in the metals/plastic/carton container) • Metal bottle tops (place in the metals/plastic/carton container) • Sheet glass (window pane type, picture frame glass, car windscreen glass) • Mirrors • Light bulbs • Crockery (including ceramics and china) • Drinking glasses • Glass and ceramic cookware

Food	
What should be placed in the container	**What should NOT be placed in the container (unless the waste collector specifically allows it to be included)**
• All waste items that have at any time been food (which for this purpose does not include drink) intended for human or animal consumption • Biodegradable waste arising from the processing or preparation of food or drink	• Any packaging (if recyclable, place in a separate specified container) • Items (including packaging) that are biodegradable, compostable, or oxy-degradable. • Large bones • Kitchen paper • Oils

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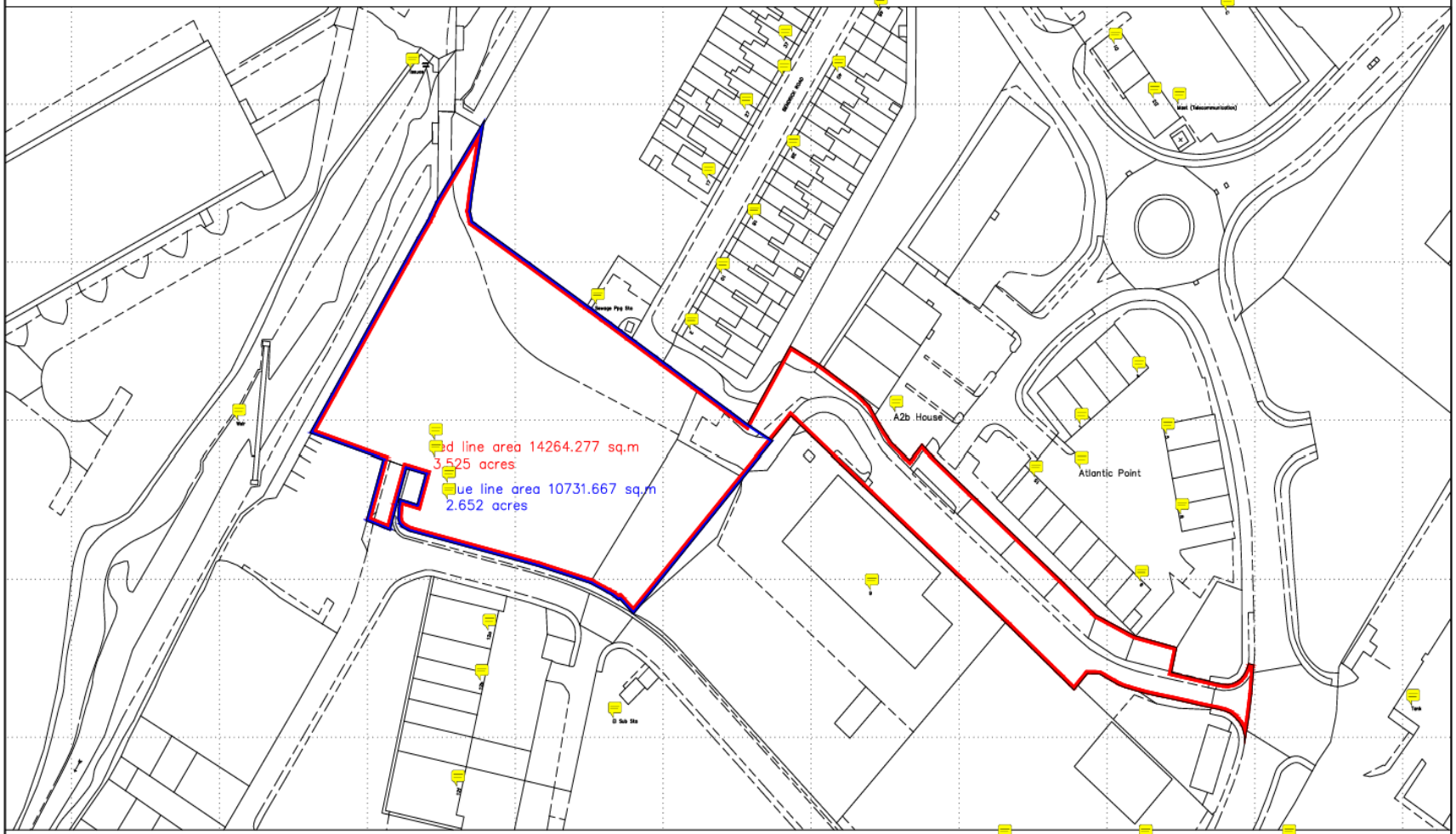
Appendix C

PLAN REFERRED TO :

ATLANTIC TRADING ESTATE, SULLY, BARRY
VALE OF GLAMORGAN. CF63 3RF

Job No. 21589
Date: April 2022



Zenith Land Surveys LTD
Mill House, Old Caerphilly Road, Nantgarw CF15 7TA
Tel: (01443) 845018 E-mail: office@zenithlandsurveys.com

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OS Map Reference ST1267SW

Scale: A3@1:1250

Appendix C

Appendix D

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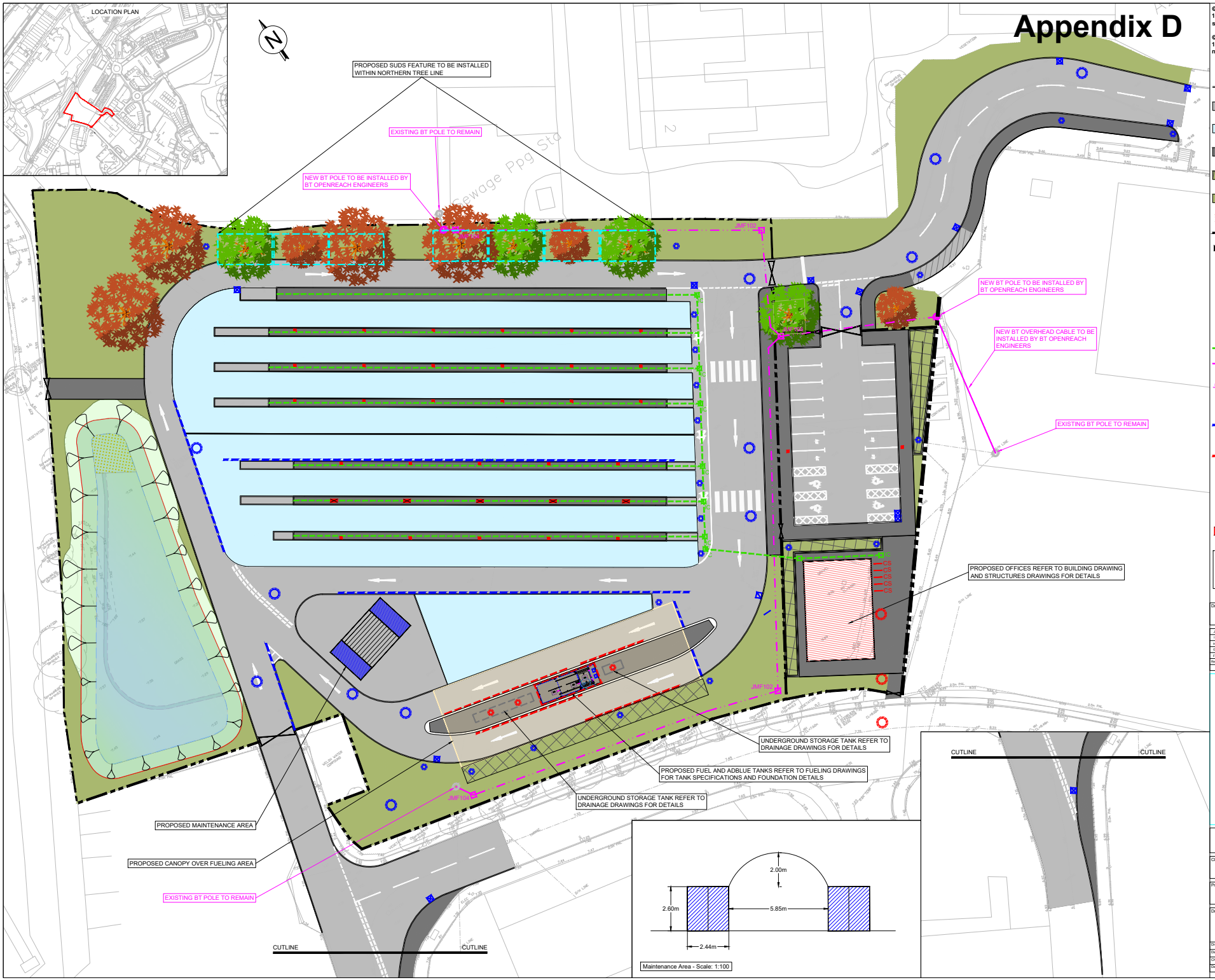

KEY

- PROPOSED ALIGNMENT
- PROPOSED CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTION REFER TO SERIES 700 DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED TRUCKPAVE 80 CONSTRUCTION REFER TO SERIES 700 DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION REFER TO SERIES 700 DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED SUDS FEATURE REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWINGS AND STANDARD DETAILS FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED AREA TO BE TOPSOILED WITH 100mm TOPSOIL AND GRASS SEEDED
- PROPOSED TREE
- PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 DOUBLE SKIN FENCING
- PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
- PROPOSED ZENITH SR2 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS GATE
- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER MANHOLE REFER TO MANHOLE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED FOUL WATER MANHOLE REFER TO MANHOLE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS
- IC PROPOSED 600x600mm NAL STAKKA BOX
- PROPOSED 4WAY TWIN WALL FLEXI DUCT
- PROPOSED 100mm BT DUCTING
- JMF104 PROPOSED BT JOINT BOX
- PROPOSED GULLY REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING FOR DETAILS
- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER ACO DRAINAGE CHANNEL REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING AND DRAINAGE STANDARD DETAILS
- PROPOSED FOUL WATER ACO DRAINAGE CHANNEL REFER TO DRAINAGE DRAWING AND DRAINAGE STANDARD DETAILS
- CS PROPOSED SHEFFIELD CYCLESTAND TO BE HOT DIP GALVANISED TO BS EN ISO 1461 CYCLE STANDS TO BE ROOT FIXED

REFER TO DRAWING 50532-BUR-HDG-XX-DR-D-0503 FOR DRAINAGE PIPE WORK ARRANGEMENT

REFER TO MANHOLE AND PIPEWORK SCHEDULE FOR DEPTHS, INVERTS, MANHOLE TYPES AND PIPE SURROUNDS

Drawing Status

DETAILED DESIGN

Rev	By	Description of Amendment	Chk by	Date
J	JB	Additional parking lane created and EV chargers illustrated.	JB	26/02/2026
I	JB	Fuel tank updated following submission of tank design.	JB	29/10/2025
H	JB	Staff car park layout adjusted within confirmed boundary fence line.	JB	17/06/2025
G	OM	Location plan, cycle stands and parking bays added	OM	04.01.24
F	OM	Minor amendments to drawing key and hatching	OM	20.12.23

Revisions

VALE of GLAMORGAN
ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING SERVICES
Director: Miles Punter
BRO MORGANNWG

ENGINEERING

Client: The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Project: Fleet Parking Scheme

Drawing Title: General Arrangement

Drawn OM	Scale 1:250	Project No. 2339	Drawing No. HP/01/425		
Date 14.2.23					
Checked JB	File				
Date 14.2.23	Window			Rev	J